



BOOK
TWO

RAFAEL
GRAMPÁ
BATMAN
GARGOYLE OF GOTHAM
NOIR EDITION



**THE KING OF
SKULL ISLAND
ENTERS THE
BATTLE!**

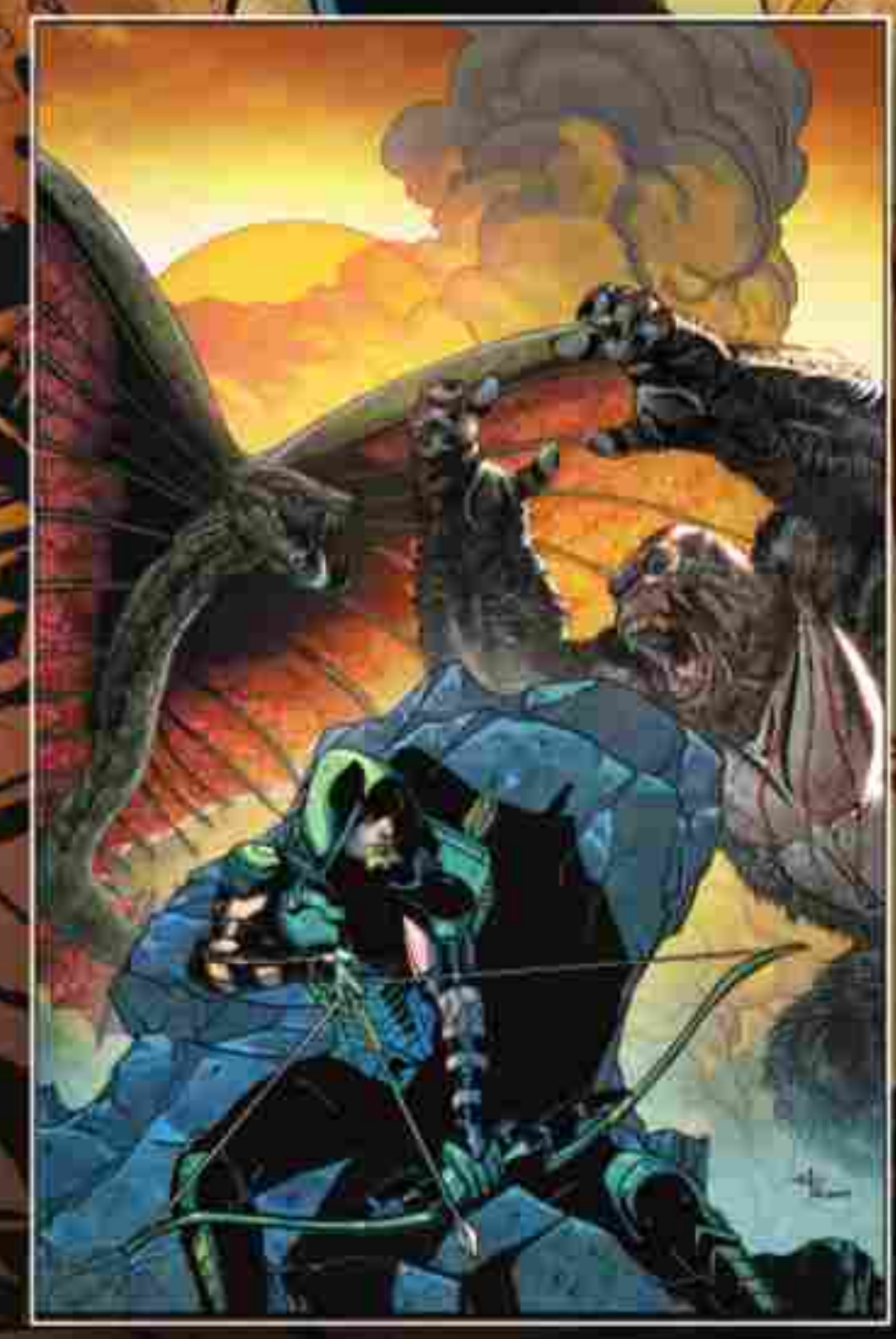


JUSTICE LEAGUE **vs.** **GODZILLA** **vs.** **KONG** **#3**

Written by
BRIAN
BUCCELLATO
Art by
CHRISTIAN
DUCE

**The earth-shattering
crossover event continues.**

December



**Justice League vs.
Godzilla vs. Kong #3**

Main cover by Drew Johnson

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BATMAN

GARGOYLE ^{OF} GOTHAM

NOIR EDITION

BOOK TWO

RAFAEL GRAMPÁ

writer and artist

JOHN WORKMAN

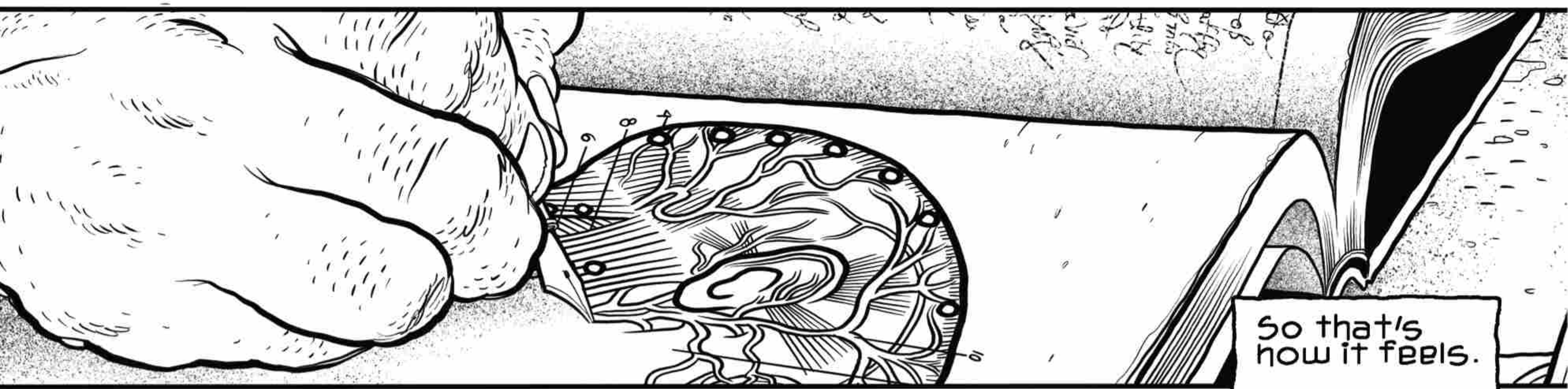
letterer

RAFAEL GRAMPÁ

cover

BATMAN created by
BOB KANE with BILL FINGER





So that's
how it feels.



He is fighting hard,
like never before,
to survive.



But the only heart
left beating won't
be *HIS*.



In its place will be
this bitter moan
inside of me.

THAT'S how
it feels.

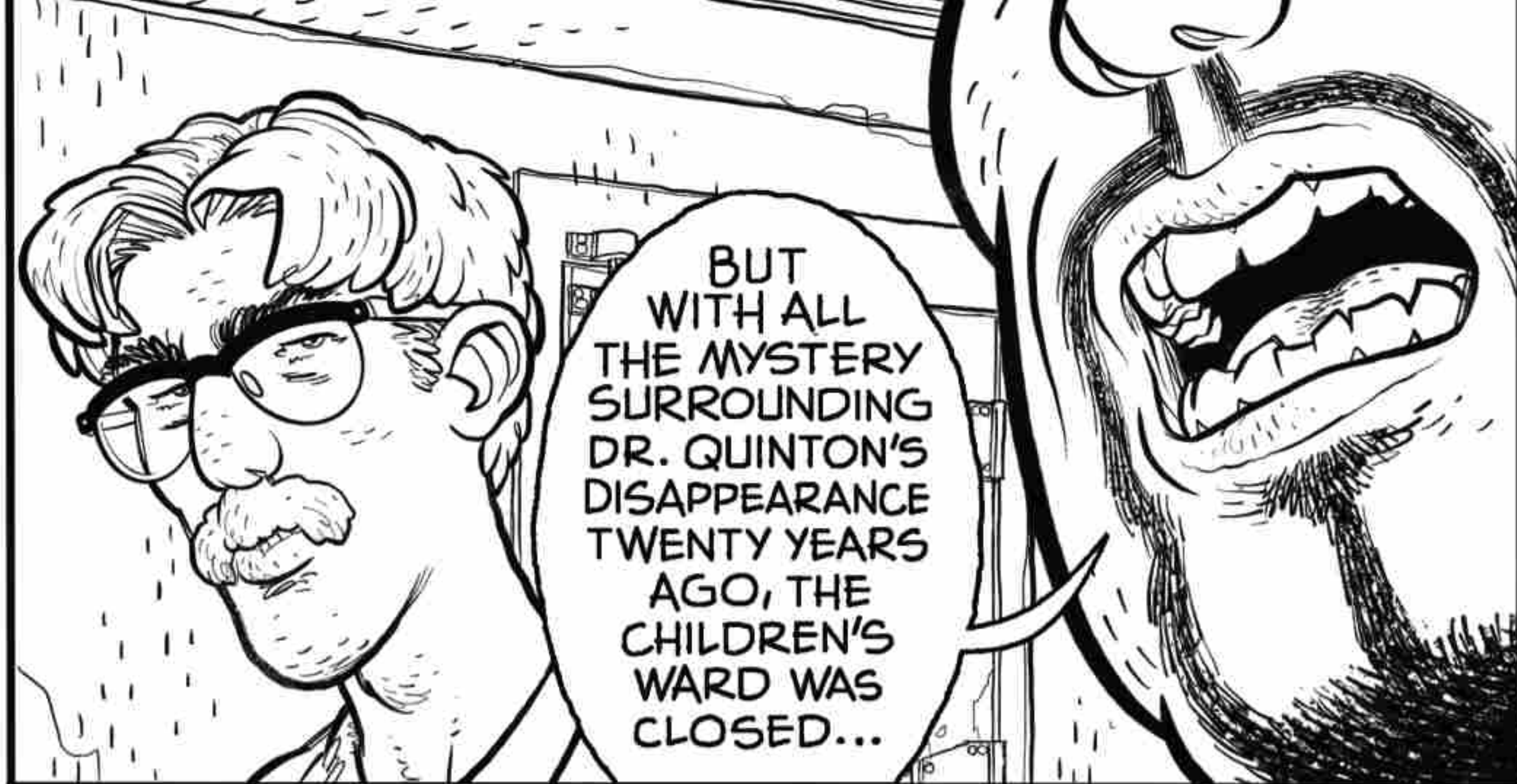


THIS is how
a killer's
heart beats.



DR. QUINTON WAS A TRUE GOTHAM HERO, DETECTIVE GORDON.

HIS ARKHAM CHILDREN'S WING WAS THE PRIDE OF THE CITY.

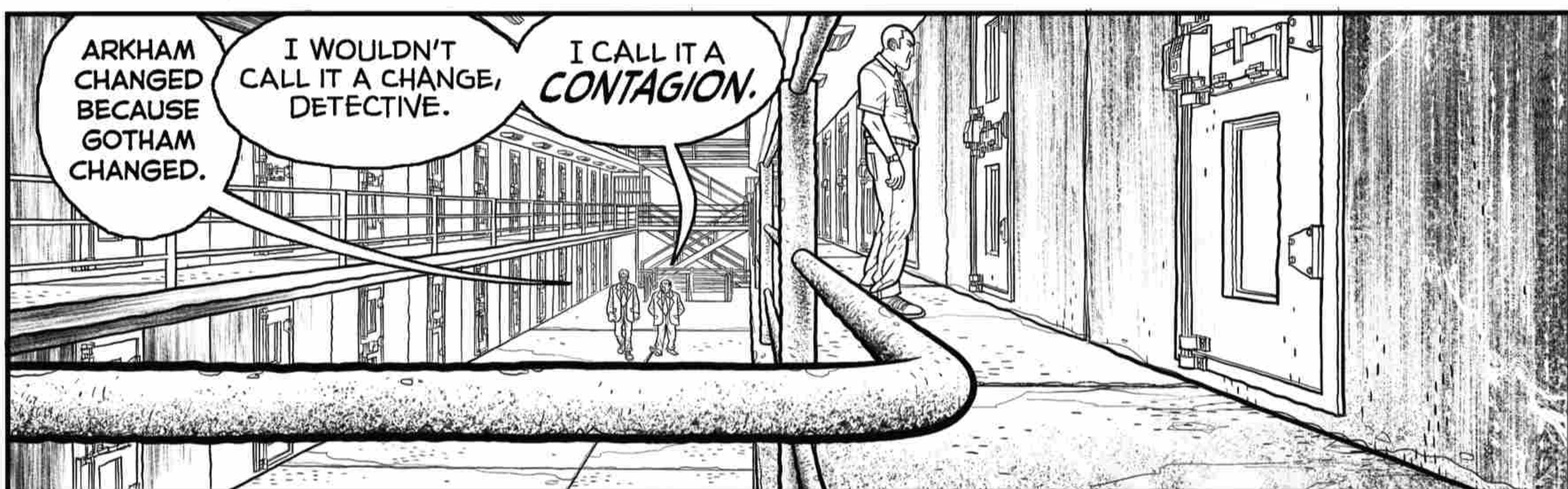


BUT WITH ALL THE MYSTERY SURROUNDING DR. QUINTON'S DISAPPEARANCE TWENTY YEARS AGO, THE CHILDREN'S WARD WAS CLOSED...



...AND WITH IT WENT ARKHAM'S GOOD REPUTATION.

NOW IT'S BECOME A DUNGEON FOR PSYCHOPATHS.



ARKHAM CHANGED BECAUSE GOTHAM CHANGED.

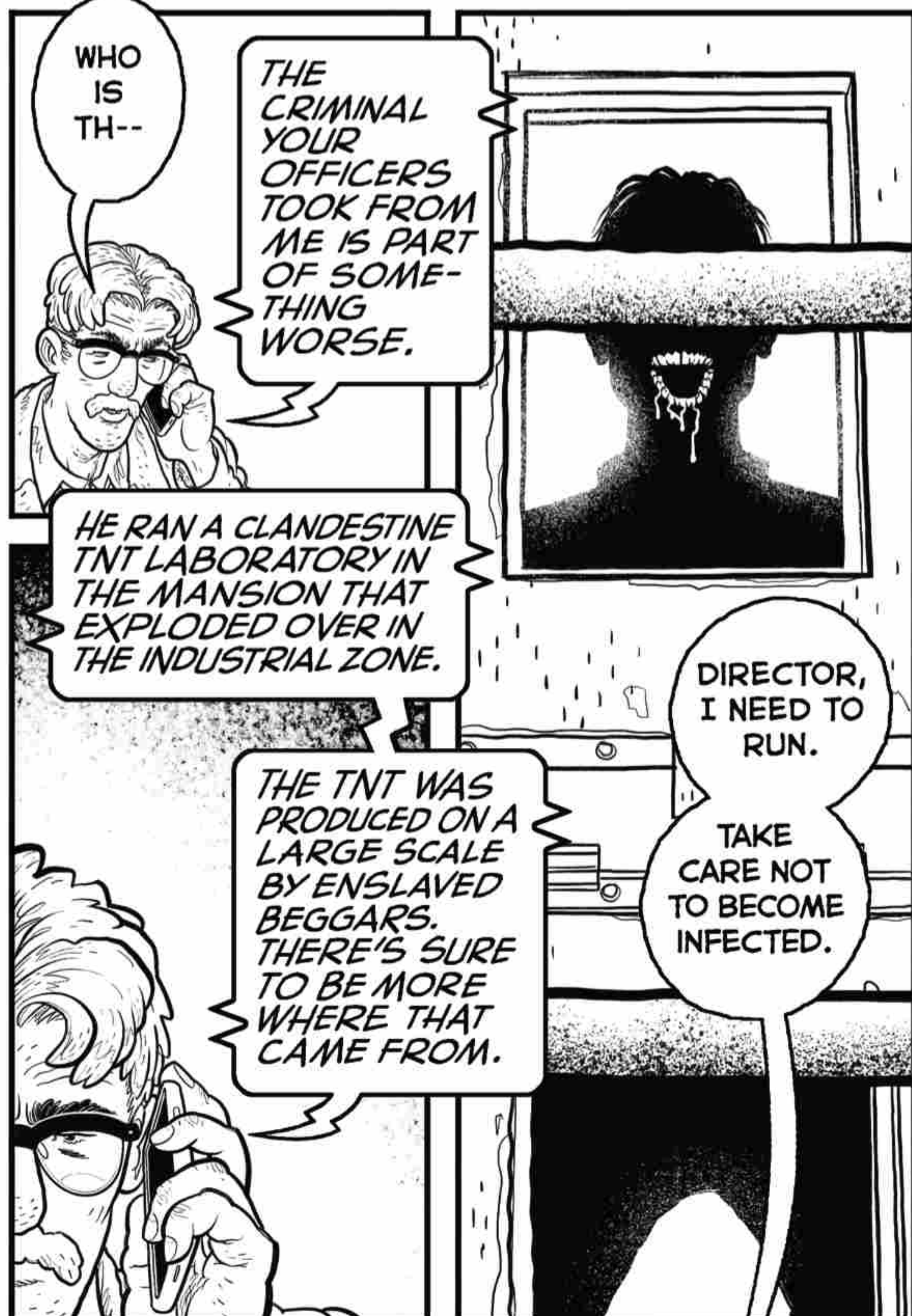
I WOULDN'T CALL IT A CHANGE, DETECTIVE.

I CALL IT A *CONTAGION*.



RIGHT. IF THERE'S NO MORE INFORMATION ABOUT DR. QUINTON, I--

EXCUSE ME, DIRECTOR...



WHO IS TH--

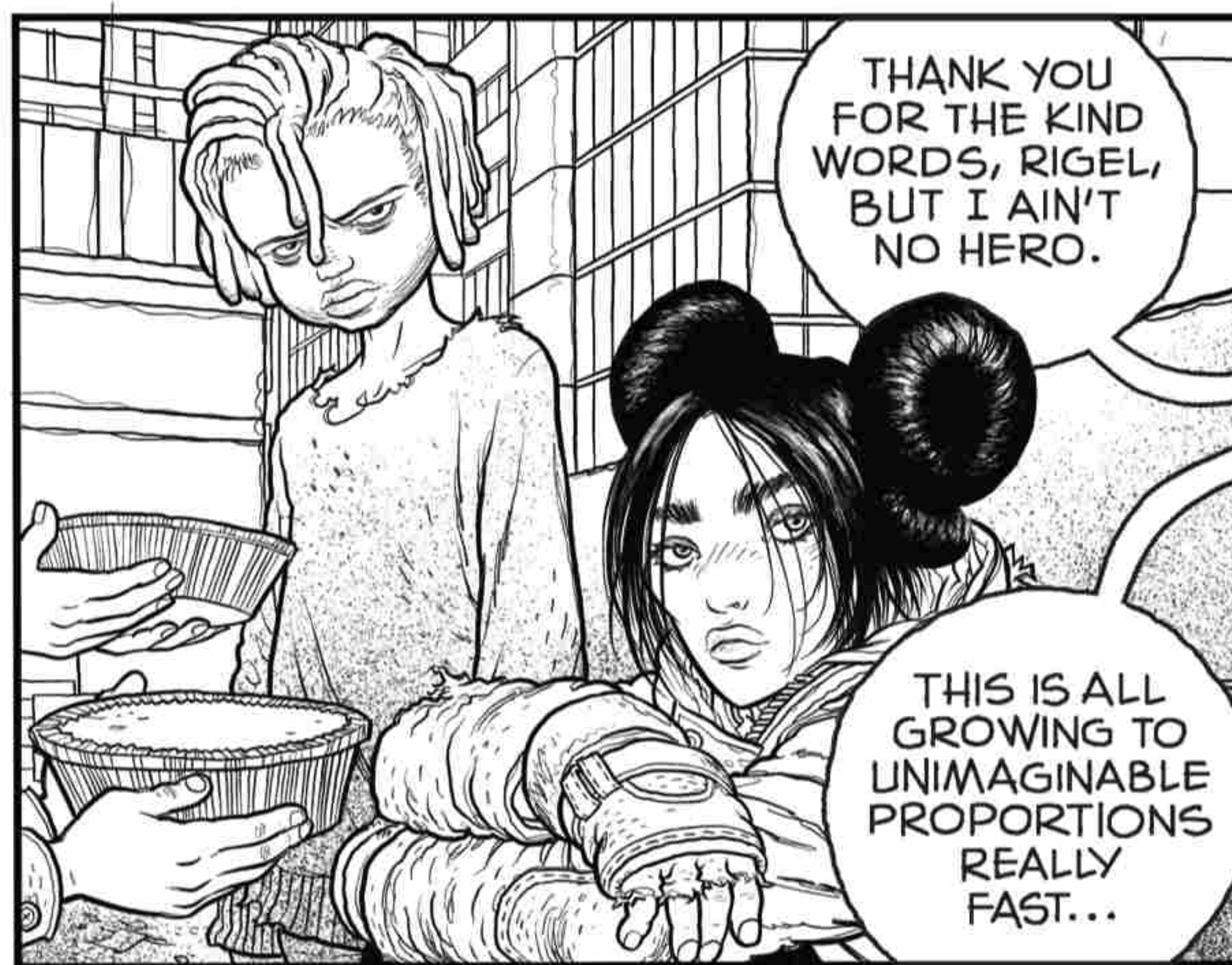
THE CRIMINAL YOUR OFFICERS TOOK FROM ME IS PART OF SOMETHING WORSE.

HE RAN A CLANDESTINE TNT LABORATORY IN THE MANSION THAT EXPLODED OVER IN THE INDUSTRIAL ZONE.

THE TNT WAS PRODUCED ON A LARGE SCALE BY ENSLAVED BEGGARS. THERE'S SURE TO BE MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM.

DIRECTOR, I NEED TO RUN.

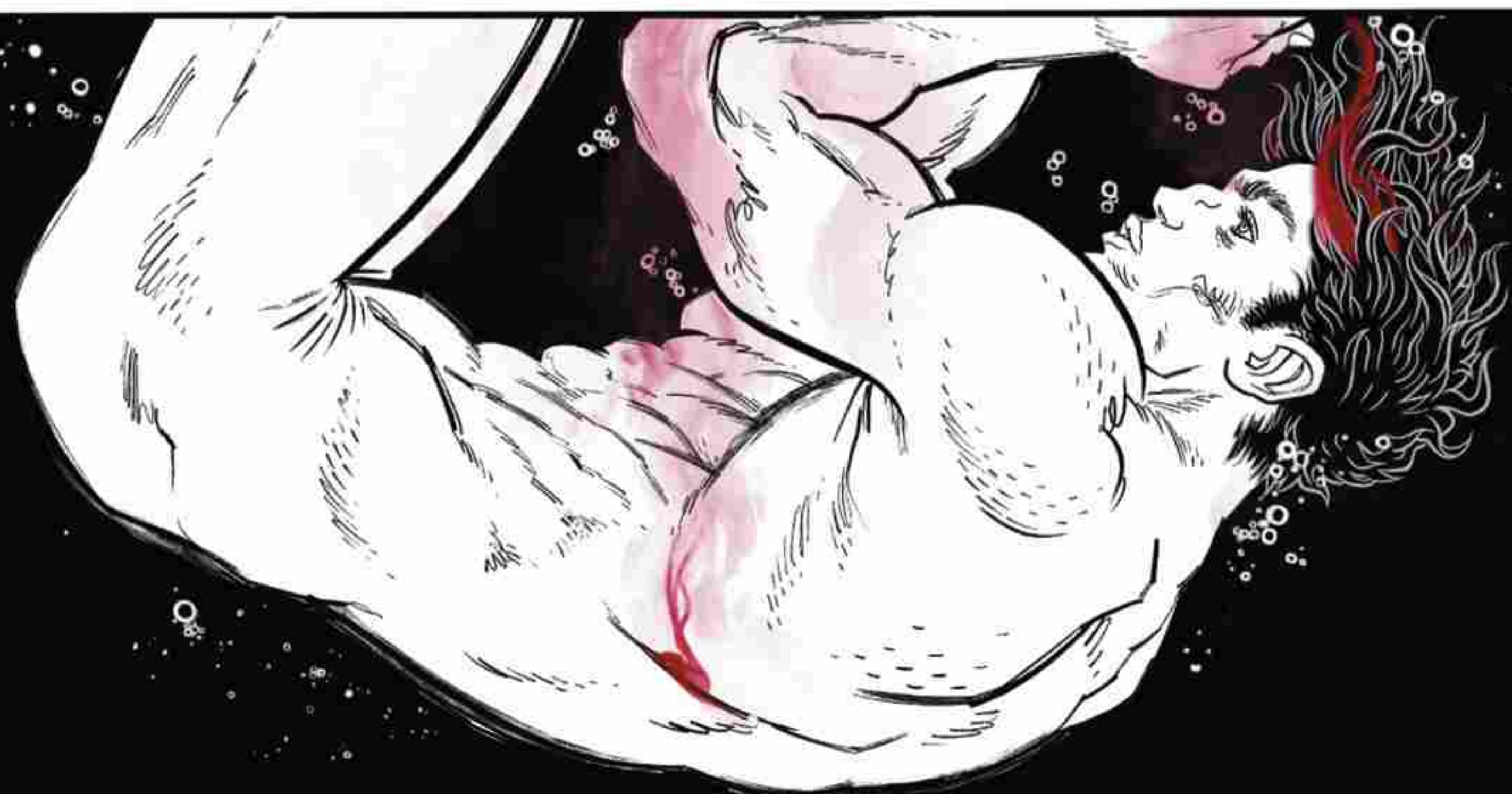
TAKE CARE NOT TO BECOME INFECTED.



So that's how
it feels...



Forgive me,
Mother...



I lost
control.



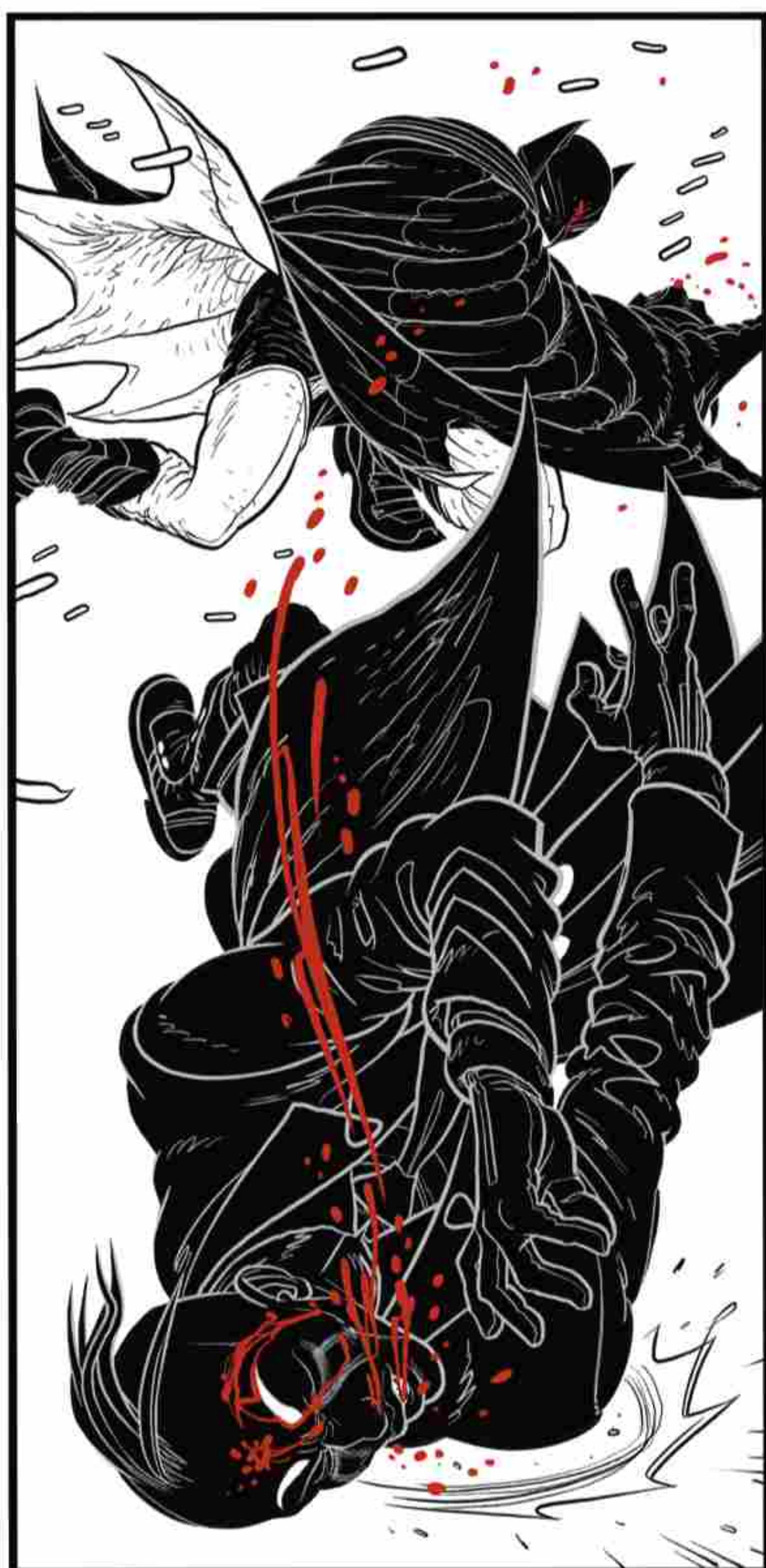
But I won't let
the guilt get in
my way.



I will make the violence
my rite of passage.



By changing
its meaning.



Each
blow...



...becomes a stab at
the child inside me.

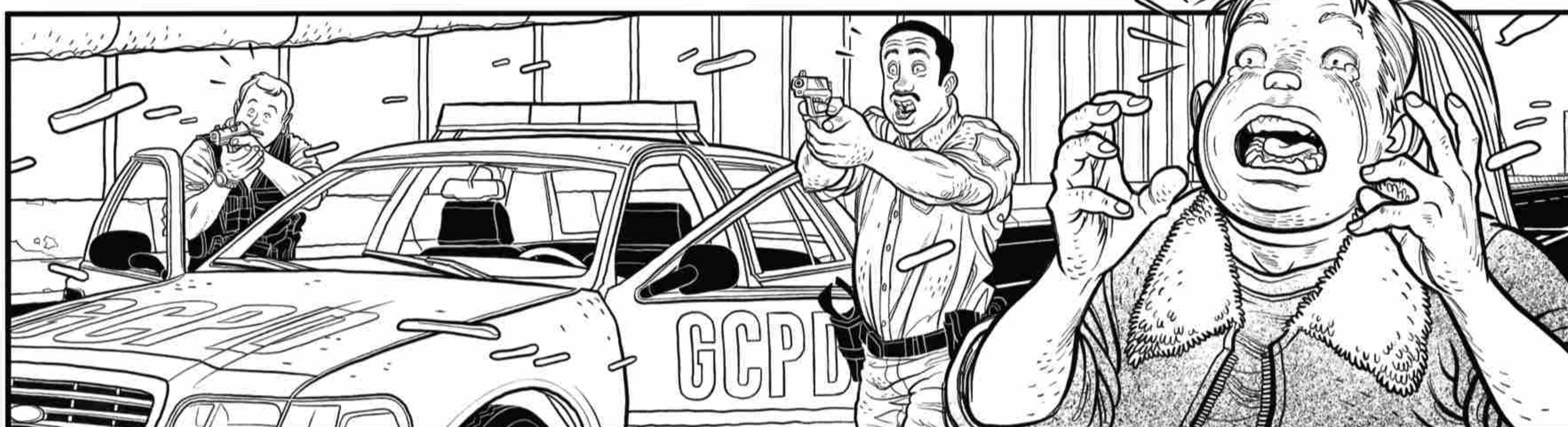


Until he
DIES.



No weakness.

Only the inevitable
bitter moan inside
me.



I'll be **COMPLETE.**

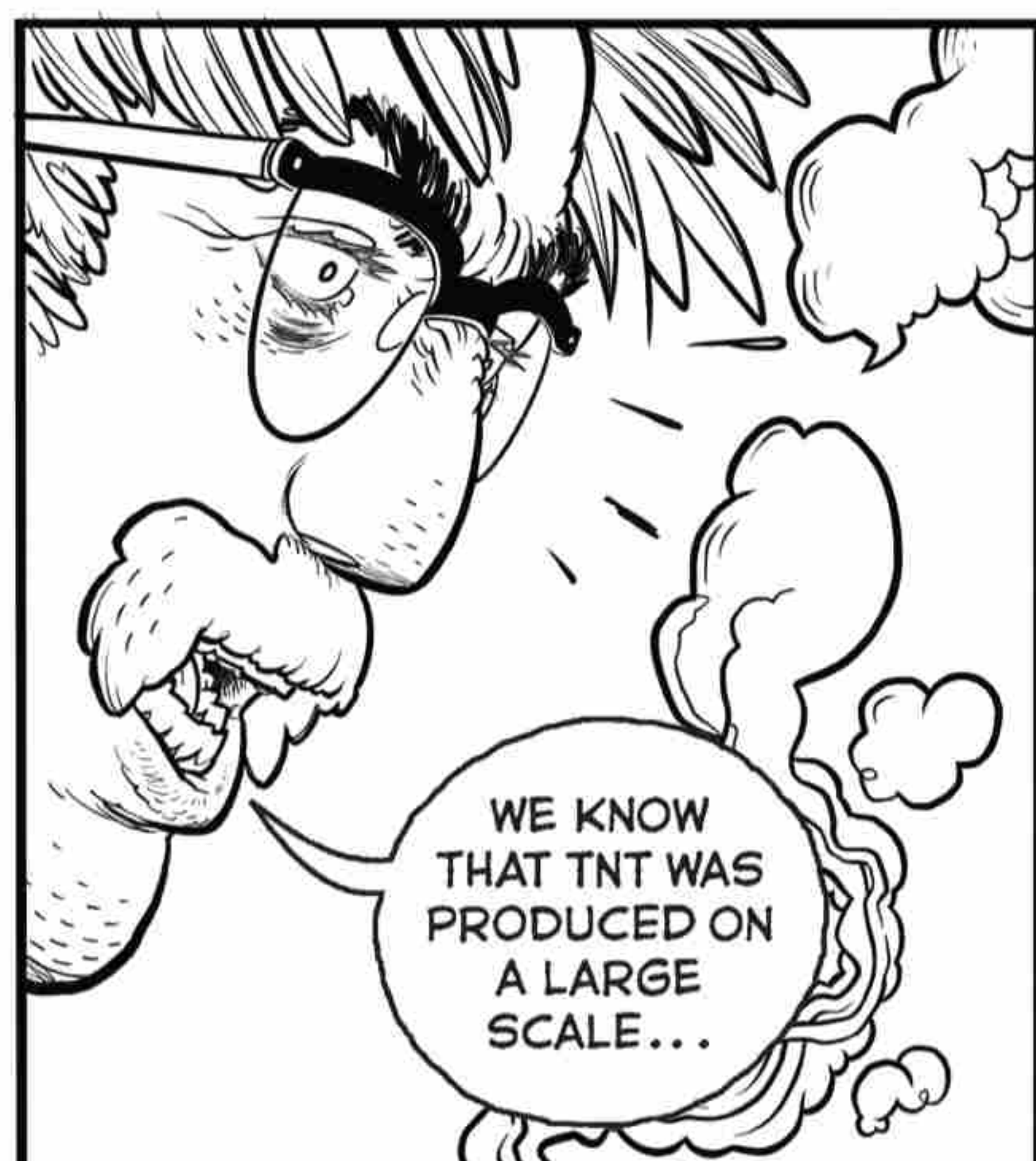


But when he's
gone, I'll forget
you, Mother.



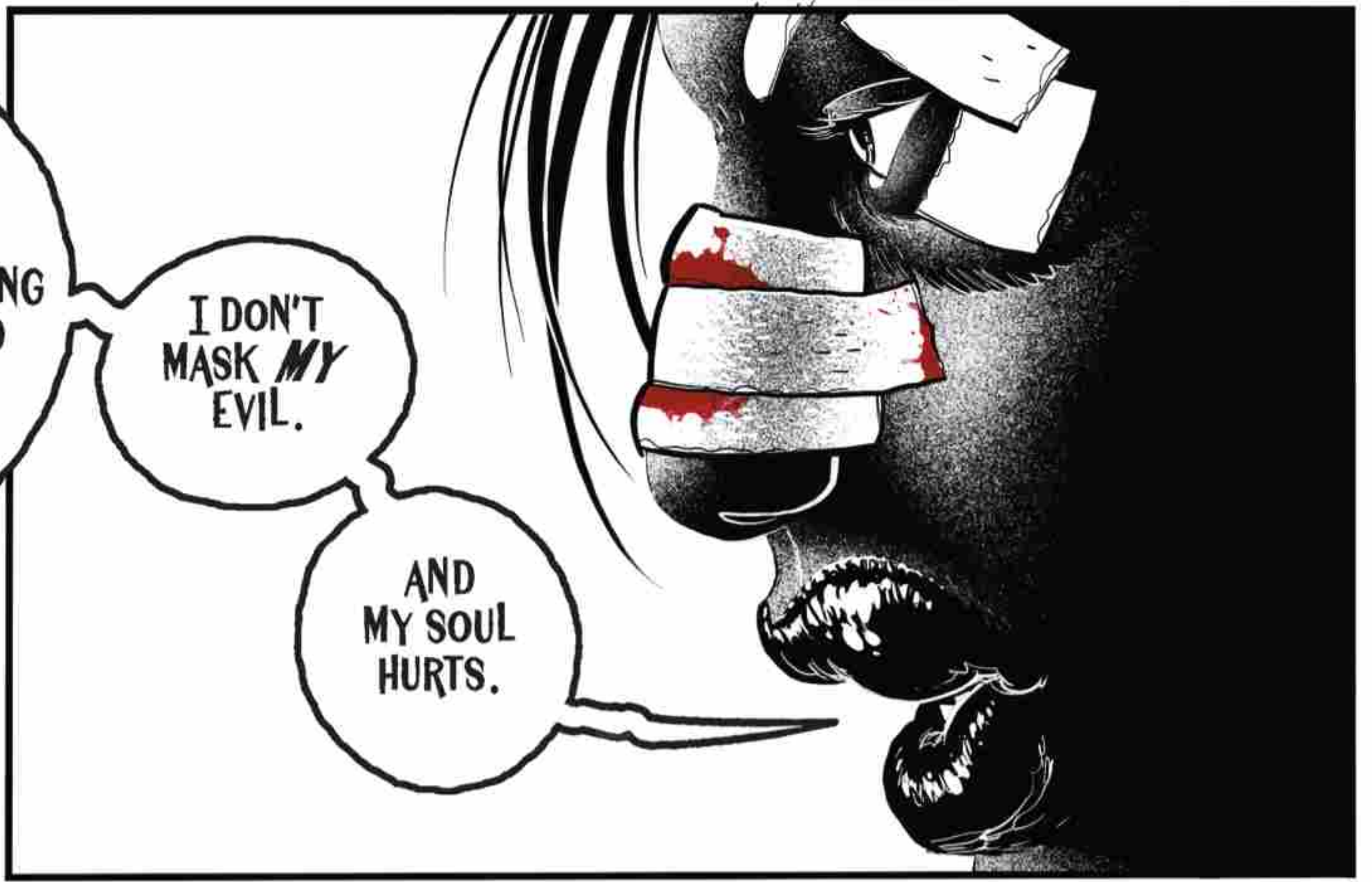
This will be my
most wrenching
sacrifice.







WHY
ISN'T THE
**MASKED
TORTURER** BEING
INTERROGATED
IN MY
PLACE?



I DON'T
MASK *MY*
EVIL.

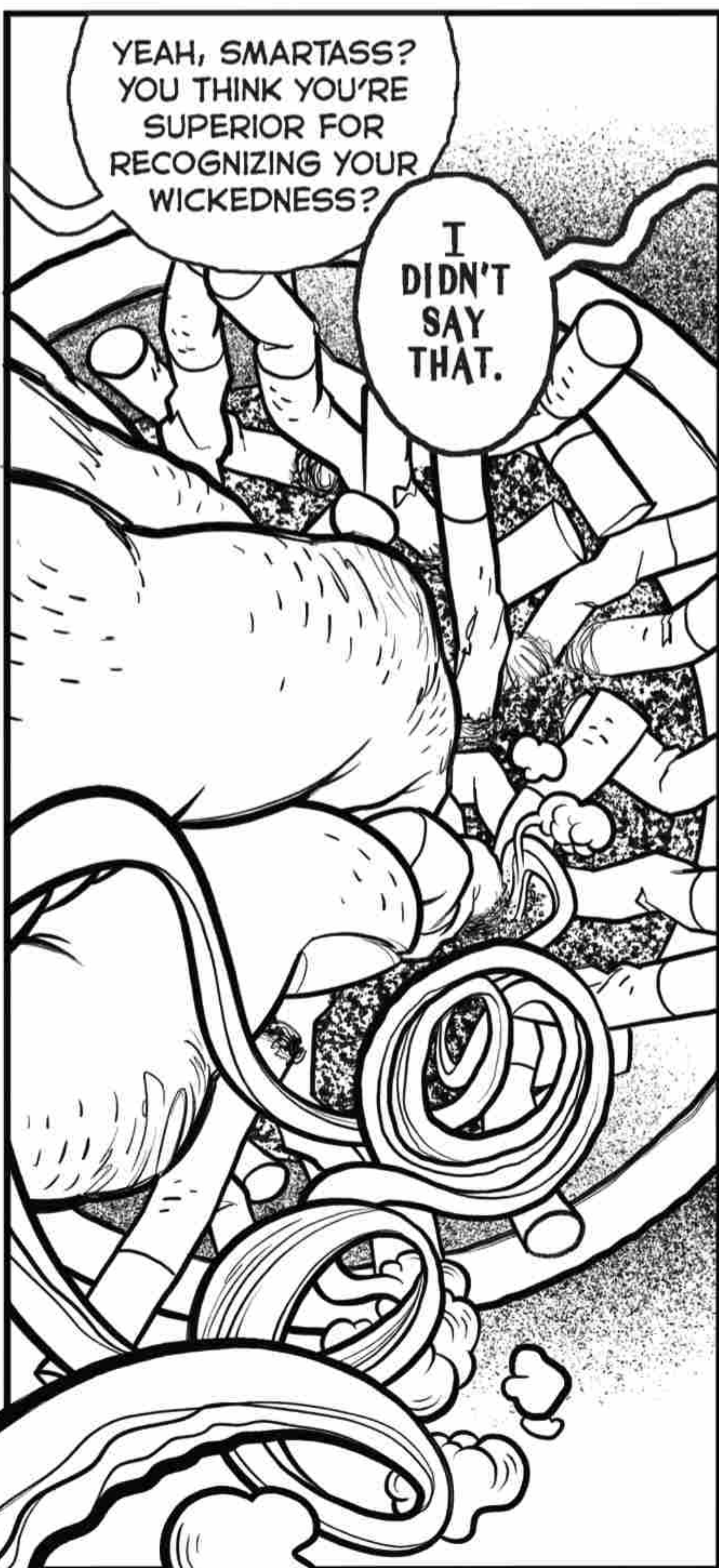
AND
MY SOUL
HURTS.



I'D
ALSO LIKE
TO LOOK IN A
MIRROR AND NOT
SEE MY OWN
REFLECTION.

THEN
I COULD
BE ONE OF
YOU.

A
GOOD
ONE.



YEAH, SMARTASS?
YOU THINK YOU'RE
SUPERIOR FOR
RECOGNIZING YOUR
WICKEDNESS?

I
DIDN'T
SAY
THAT.



I SAID
YOU ARE THE
ONES WHO HIDE
BEHIND MY
REFLECTION.



PLEASD
TO MEET YOU,
DETECTIVE...



...I
AM YOUR
SOUL.



AT LAST, MASTER BRUCE. I WAS ABOUT TO CALL A LIFEGUARD.

WHAT'S ON THE MONITORS, ALFRED?



I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON OUTSIDE THE WAYNE ENTERPRISES TOWER, SIR.

CAVE, TURN UP MONITOR EIGHT'S VOLUME.



INCREASING VOLUME.

...AND WHOSE VICTIMS ARE WE IN THIS CITY?



WE ARE VICTIMS OF THE **LOOTERS** OF **EVERYTHING**.

OF THE **HEIRS** WHO HAVE NO IDEA THAT THE **RESPON-SIBILITY** FOR THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY LIES WITH THOSE WHO **EAT**.



WE WILL SHOW OUR INDIGNATION BY PUTTING GOTHAM'S ELITE IN THE HOT SEAT!

THE RICH NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE MUST INTERROGATE THEIR ROLE IN SOCIETY.

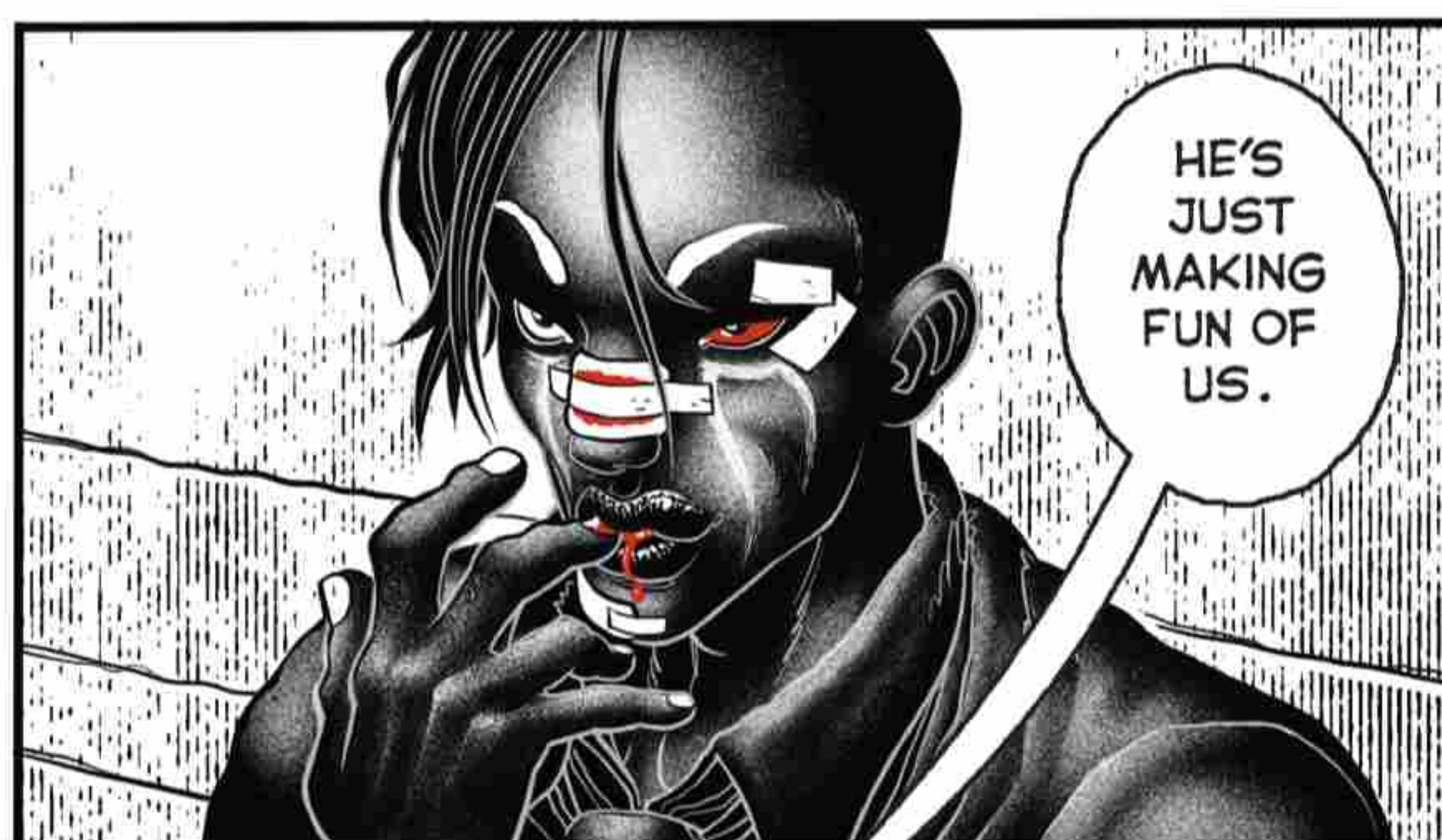
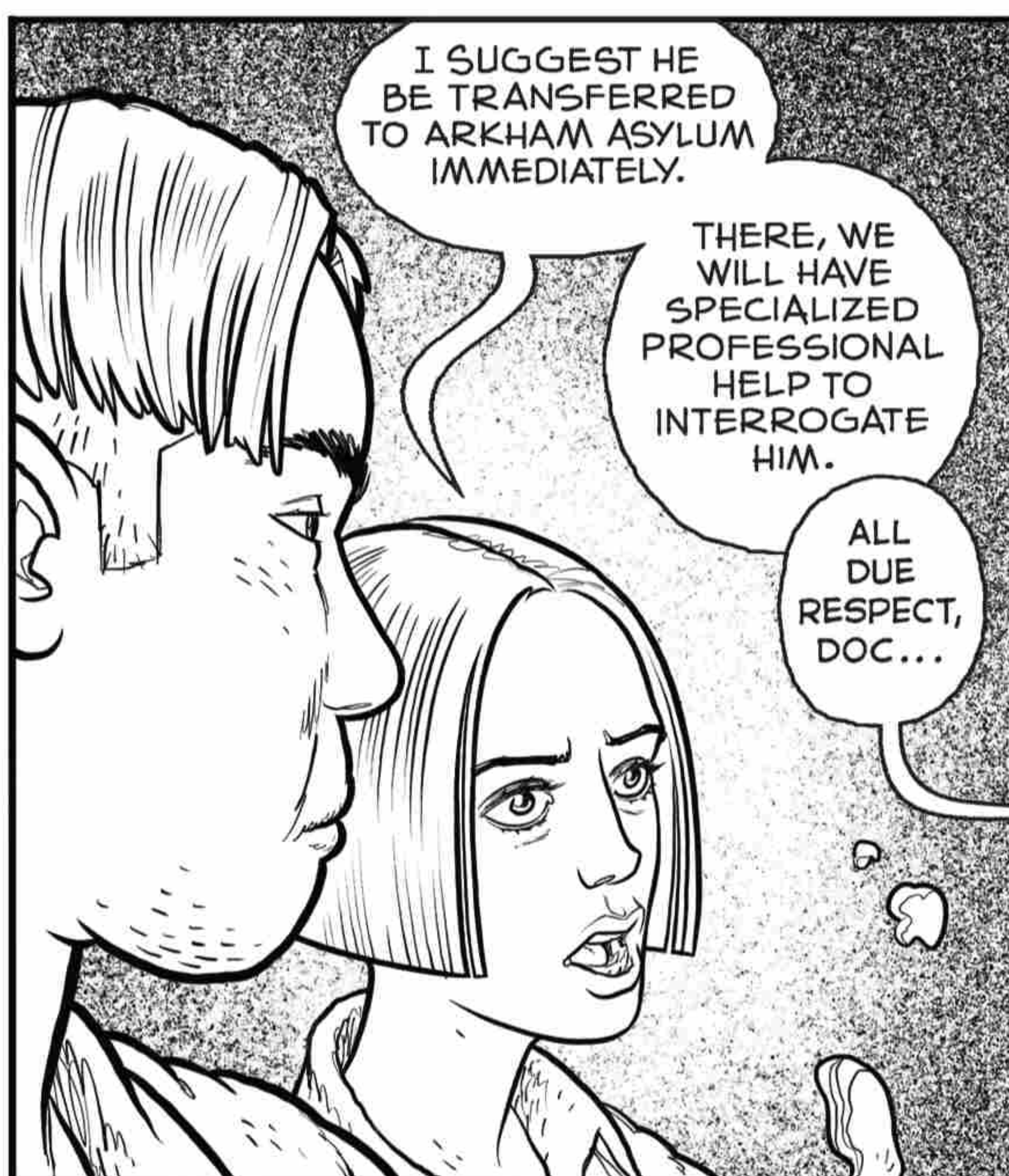
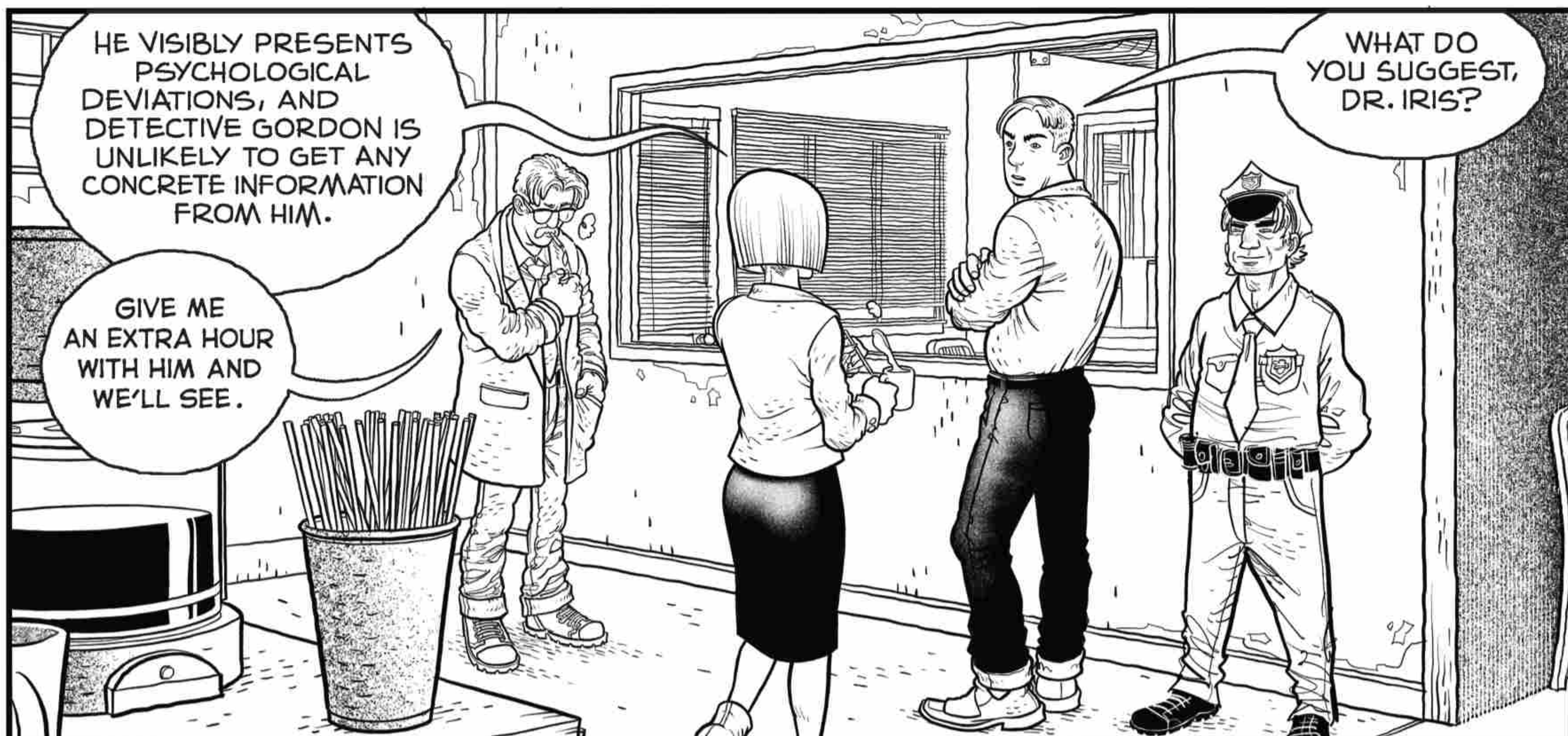


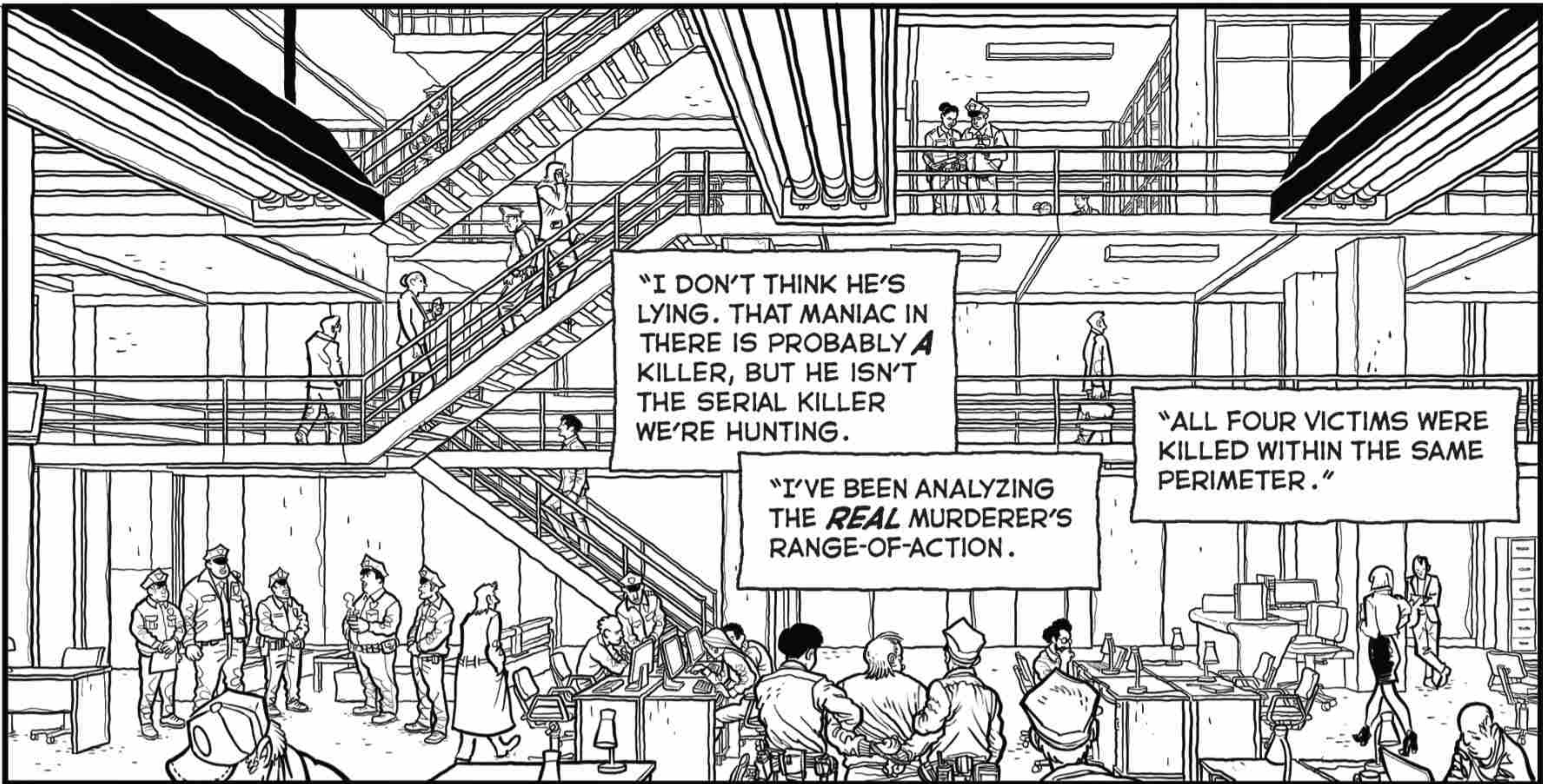
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S TRYING TO START A CONVERSATION WITH YOU, SIR.

THIS IS BULL-SHIT.



THEY HAVE NO IDEA OF THE REAL THREAT TO THIS CITY.





"I DON'T THINK HE'S LYING. THAT MANIAC IN THERE IS PROBABLY **A** KILLER, BUT HE ISN'T THE SERIAL KILLER WE'RE HUNTING."

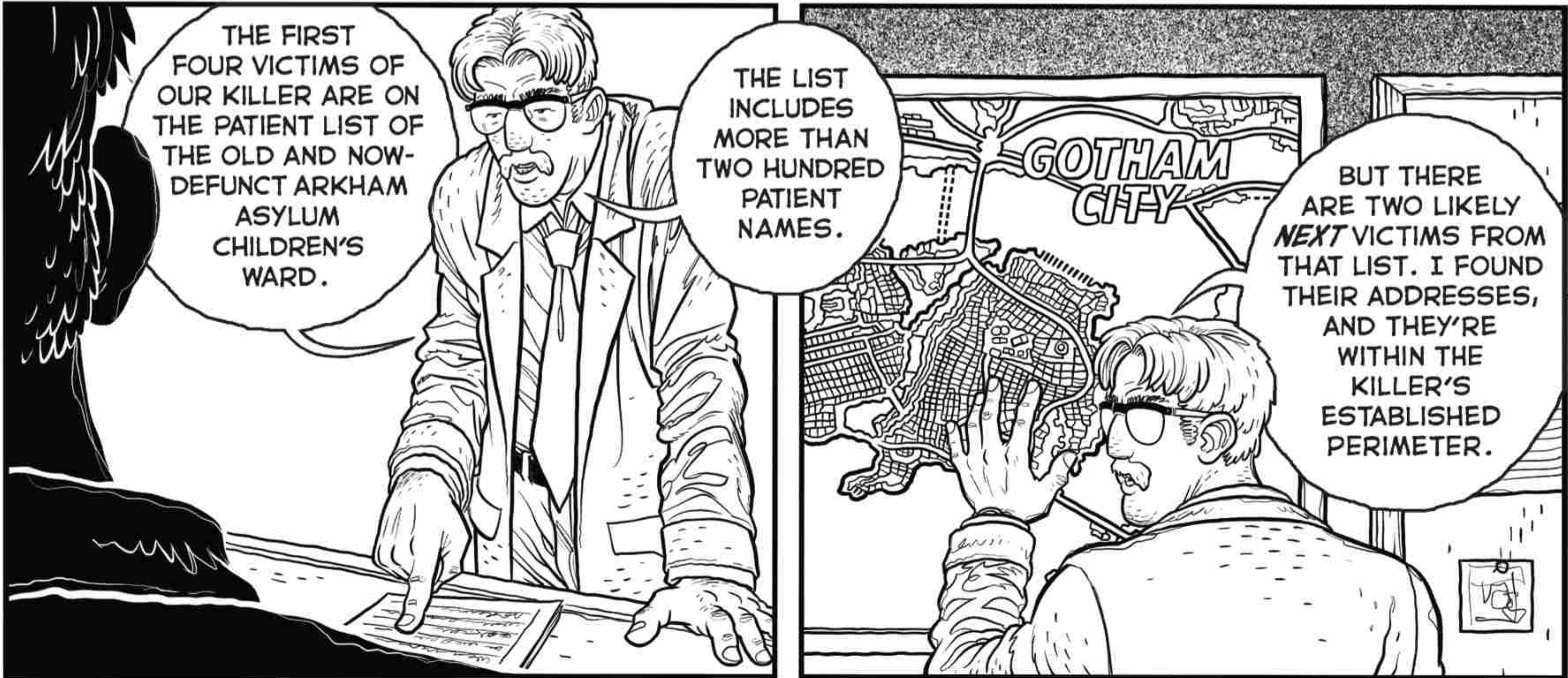
"I'VE BEEN ANALYZING THE **REAL** MURDERER'S RANGE-OF-ACTION."

"ALL FOUR VICTIMS WERE KILLED WITHIN THE SAME PERIMETER."



GORDON, WHERE DID YOU FIND EVIDENCE OF THE SUSPECT BEING INVOLVED WITH THE MANSION INCIDENT?

I'LL MAKE A FORMAL REPORT ABOUT THE WHOLE INVESTIGATION, COMMISSIONER.



THE FIRST FOUR VICTIMS OF OUR KILLER ARE ON THE PATIENT LIST OF THE OLD AND NOW-DEFUNCT ARKHAM ASYLUM CHILDREN'S WARD.

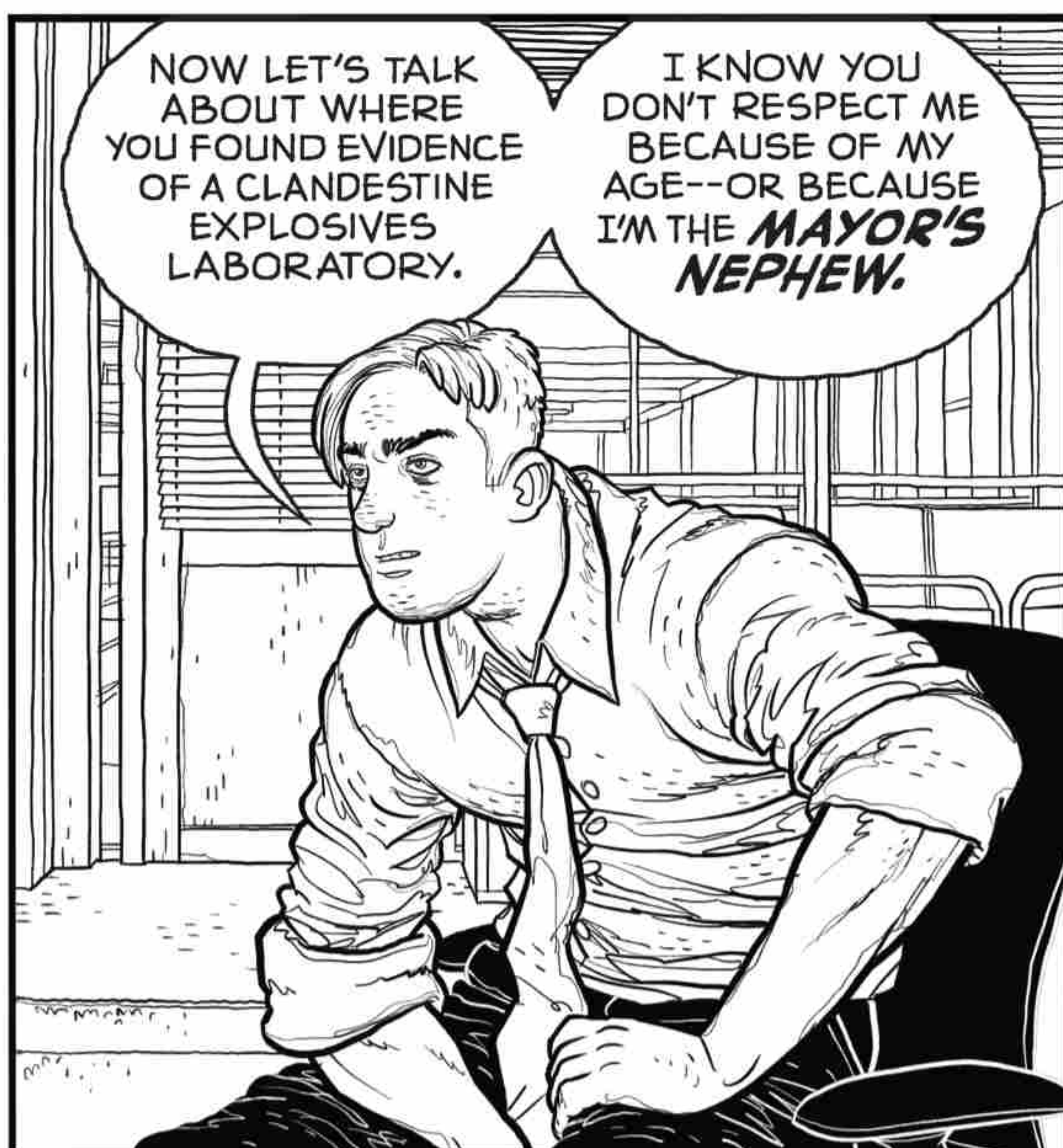
THE LIST INCLUDES MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED PATIENT NAMES.

BUT THERE ARE TWO LIKELY **NEXT** VICTIMS FROM THAT LIST. I FOUND THEIR ADDRESSES, AND THEY'RE WITHIN THE KILLER'S ESTABLISHED PERIMETER.



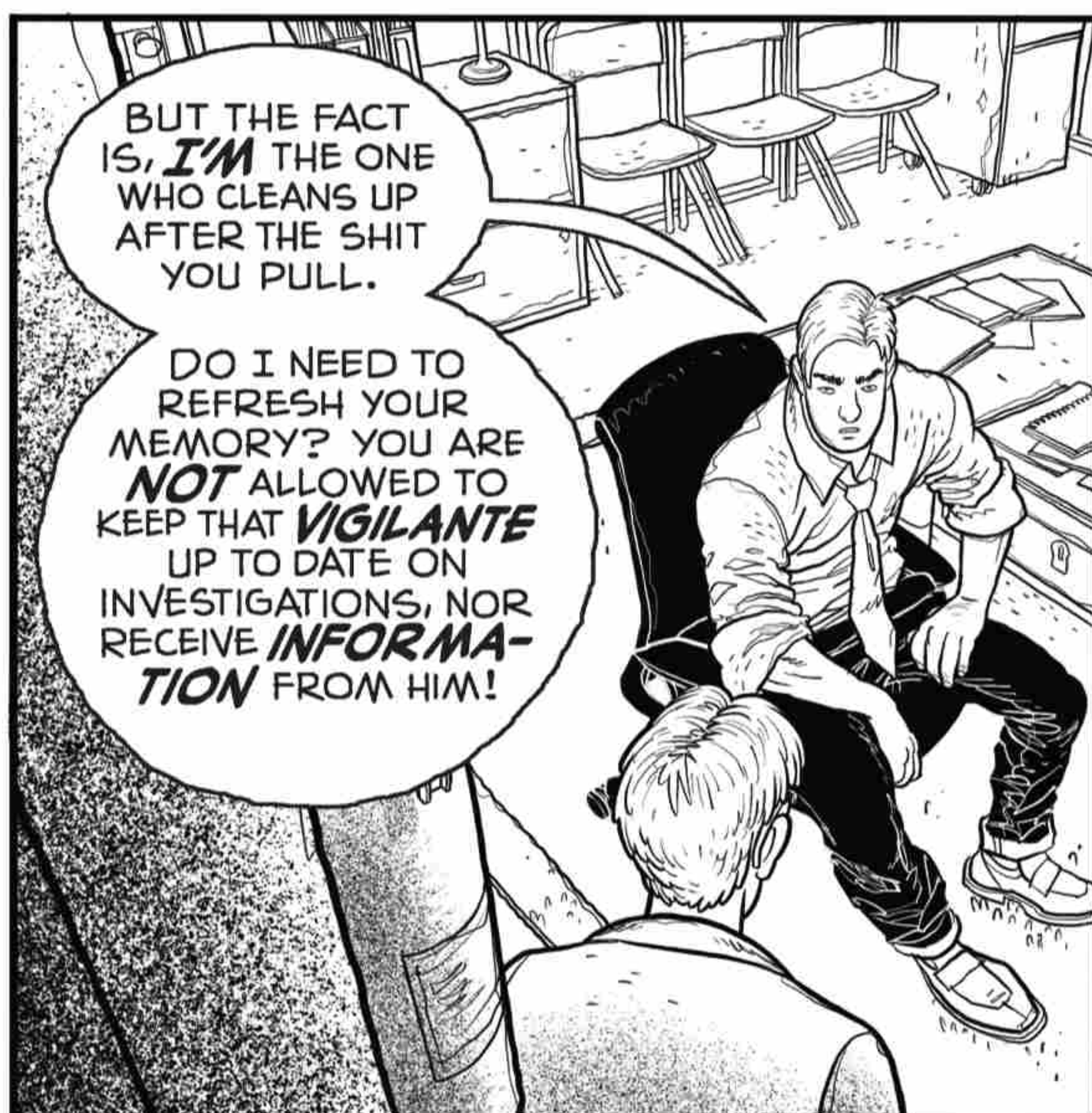
I WANT TO REQUEST A TASK FORCE TO CHECK THEIR PLACES.

I CANNOT STOP THE ENTIRE DEPARTMENT BASED ON YOUR ASSUMPTIONS, GORDON. BUT I'LL MAKE WHATEVER STAFF I'M ABLE TO SPARE AVAILABLE TO YOU.



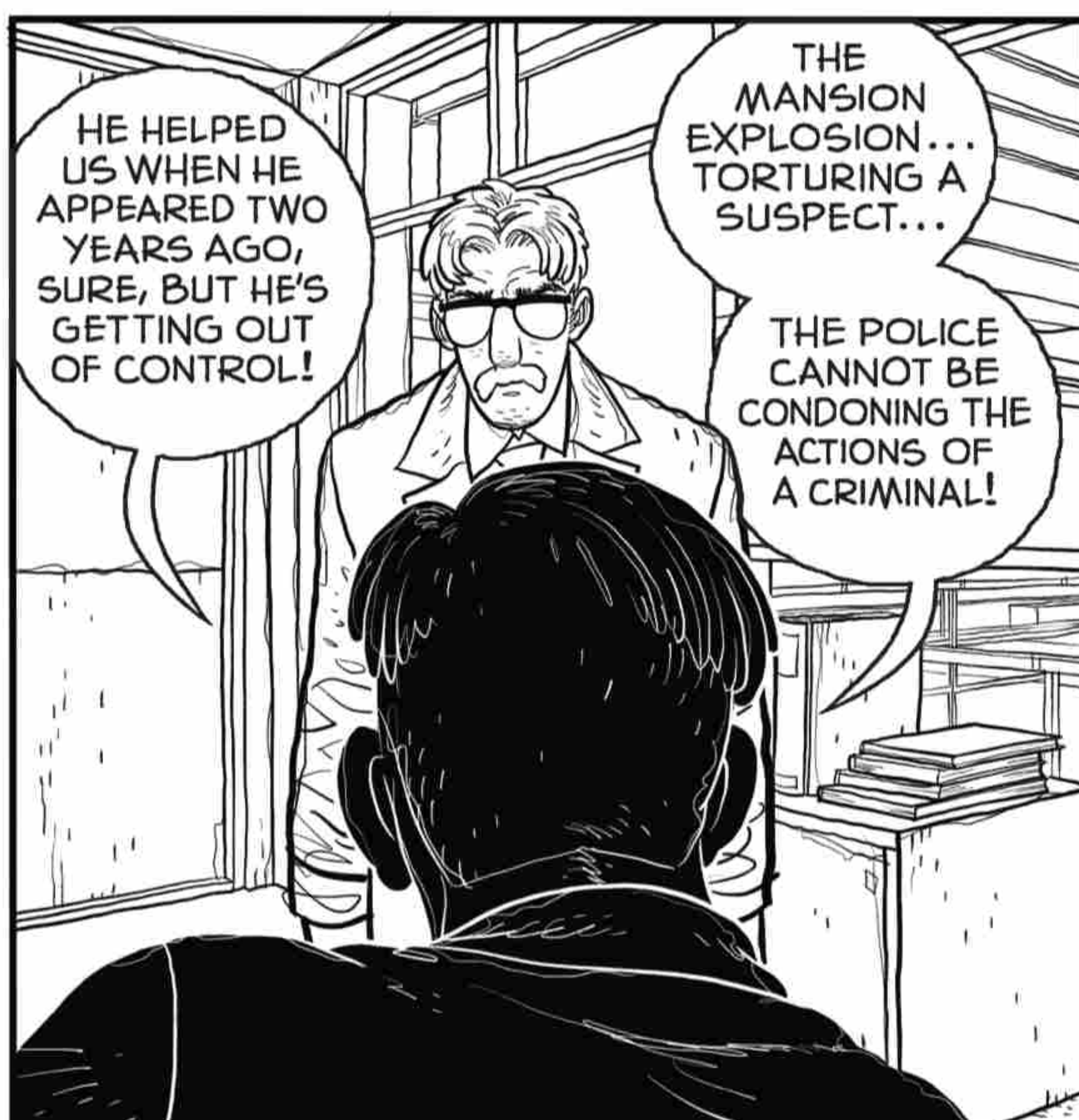
NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT WHERE YOU FOUND EVIDENCE OF A CLANDESTINE EXPLOSIVES LABORATORY.

I KNOW YOU DON'T RESPECT ME BECAUSE OF MY AGE--OR BECAUSE I'M THE **MAYOR'S NEPHEW**.



BUT THE FACT IS, **I'M** THE ONE WHO CLEANS UP AFTER THE SHIT YOU PULL.

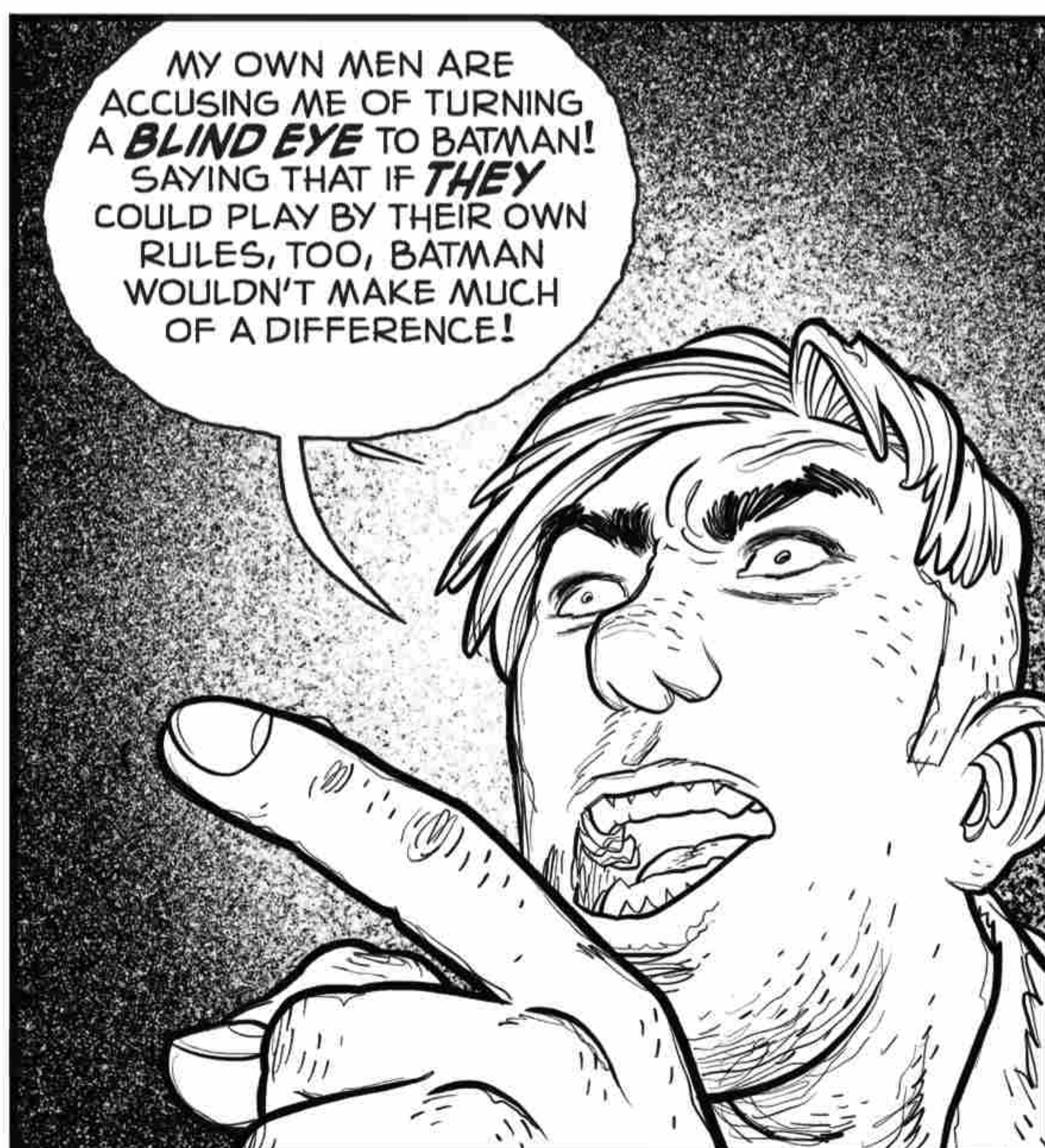
DO I NEED TO REFRESH YOUR MEMORY? YOU ARE **NOT** ALLOWED TO KEEP THAT **VIGILANTE** UP TO DATE ON INVESTIGATIONS, NOR RECEIVE **INFORMATION** FROM HIM!



HE HELPED US WHEN HE APPEARED TWO YEARS AGO, SURE, BUT HE'S GETTING OUT OF CONTROL!

THE MANSION EXPLOSION... TORTURING A SUSPECT...

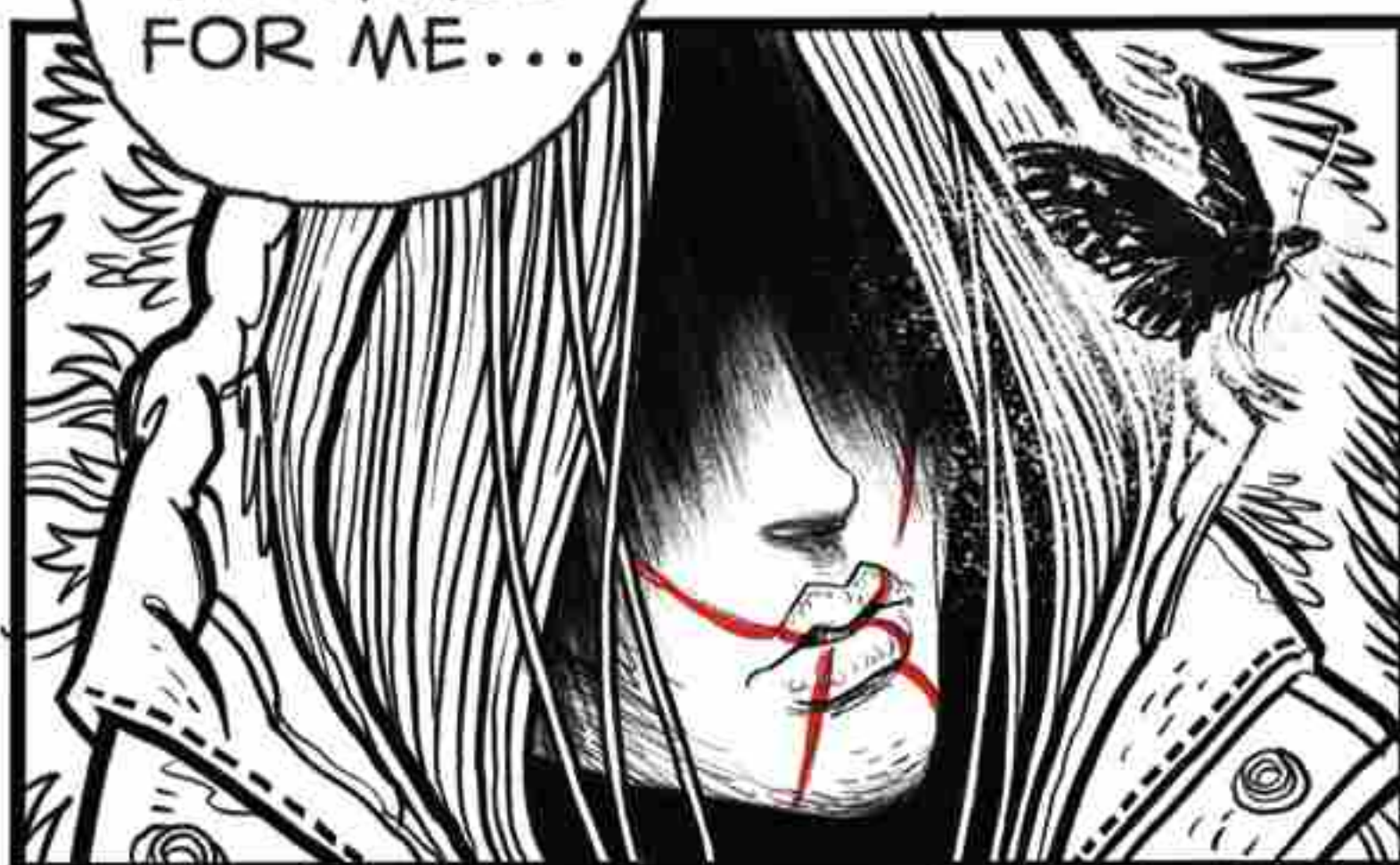
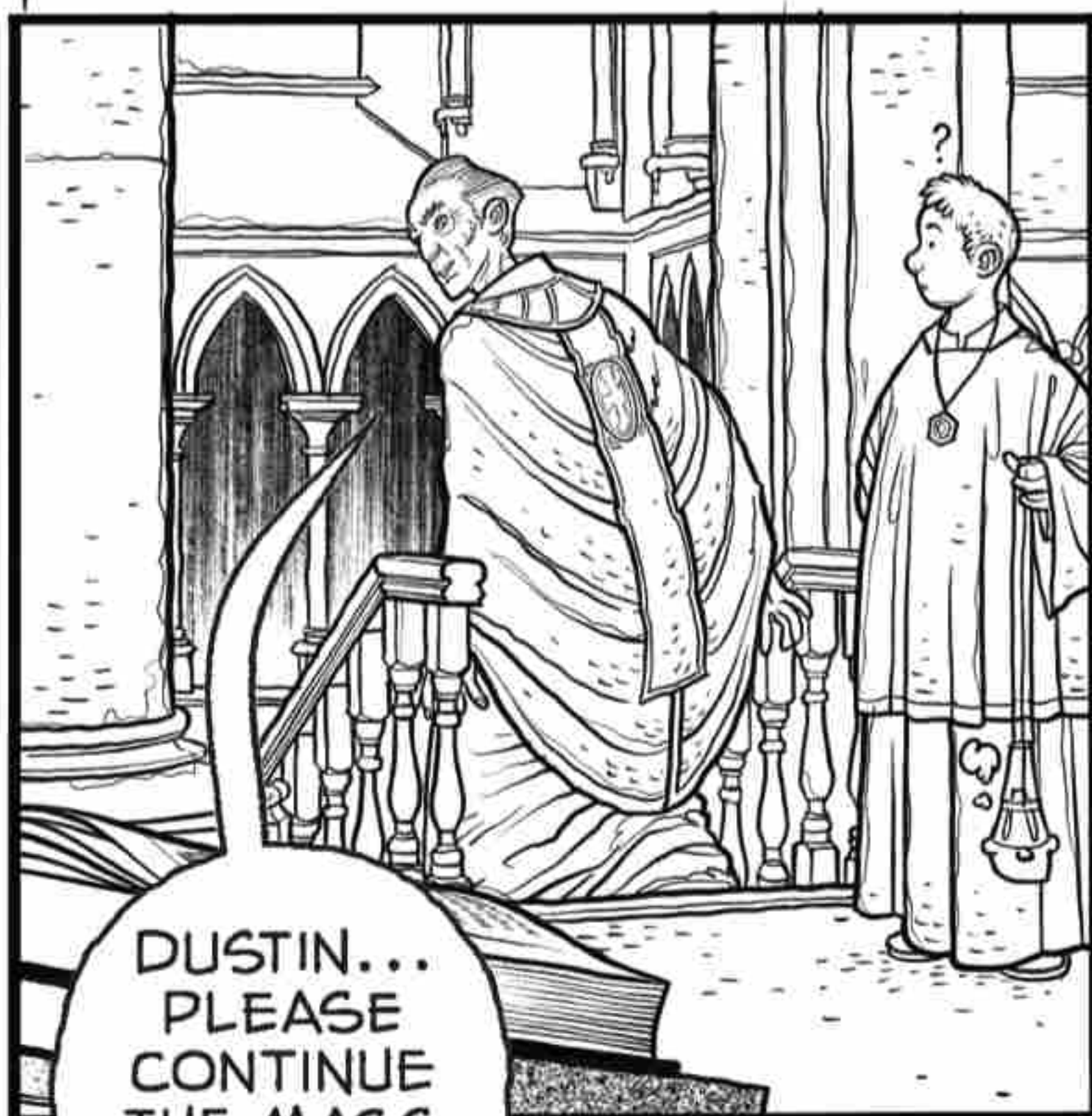
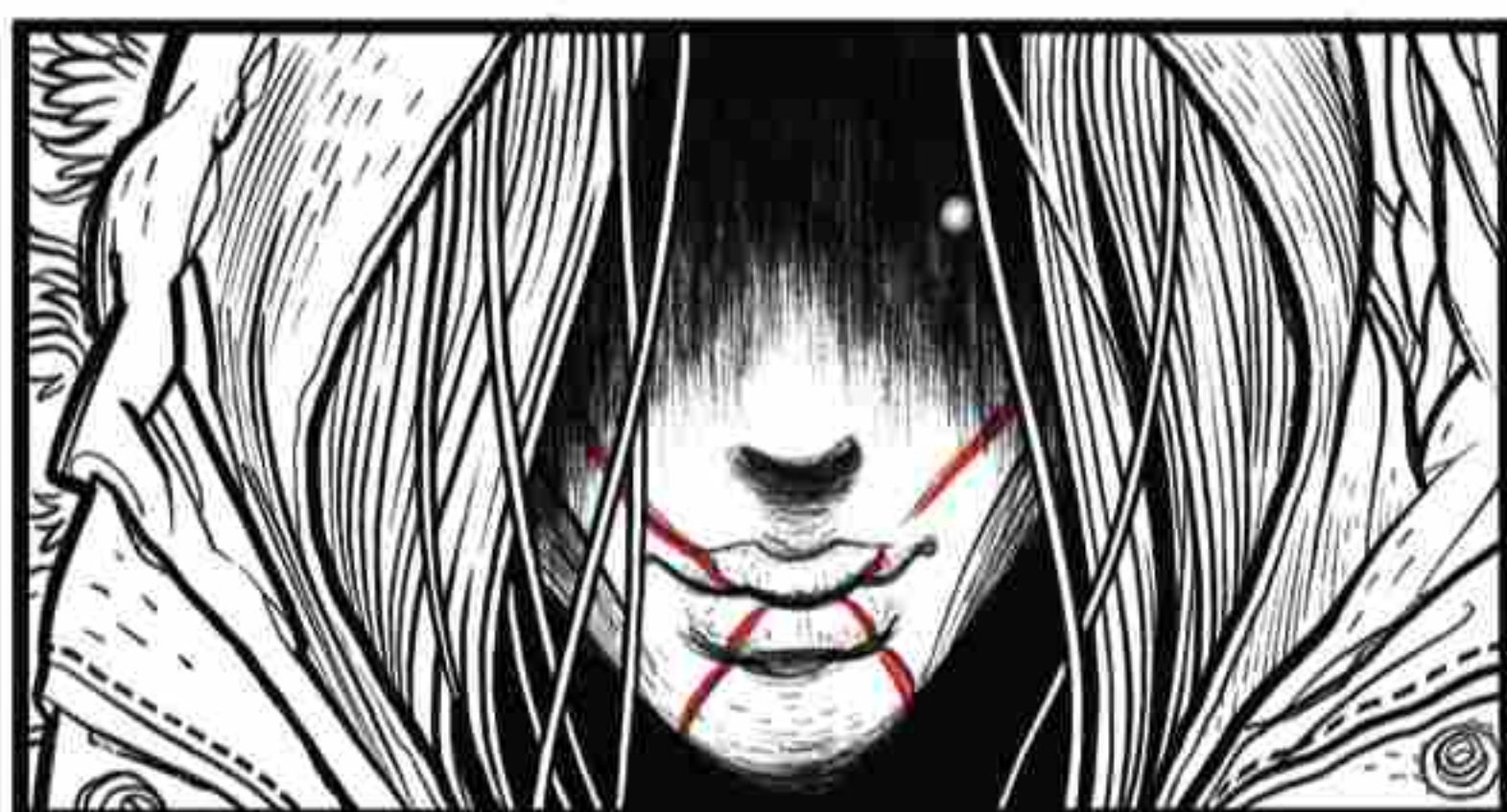
THE POLICE CANNOT BE CONDONING THE ACTIONS OF A CRIMINAL!

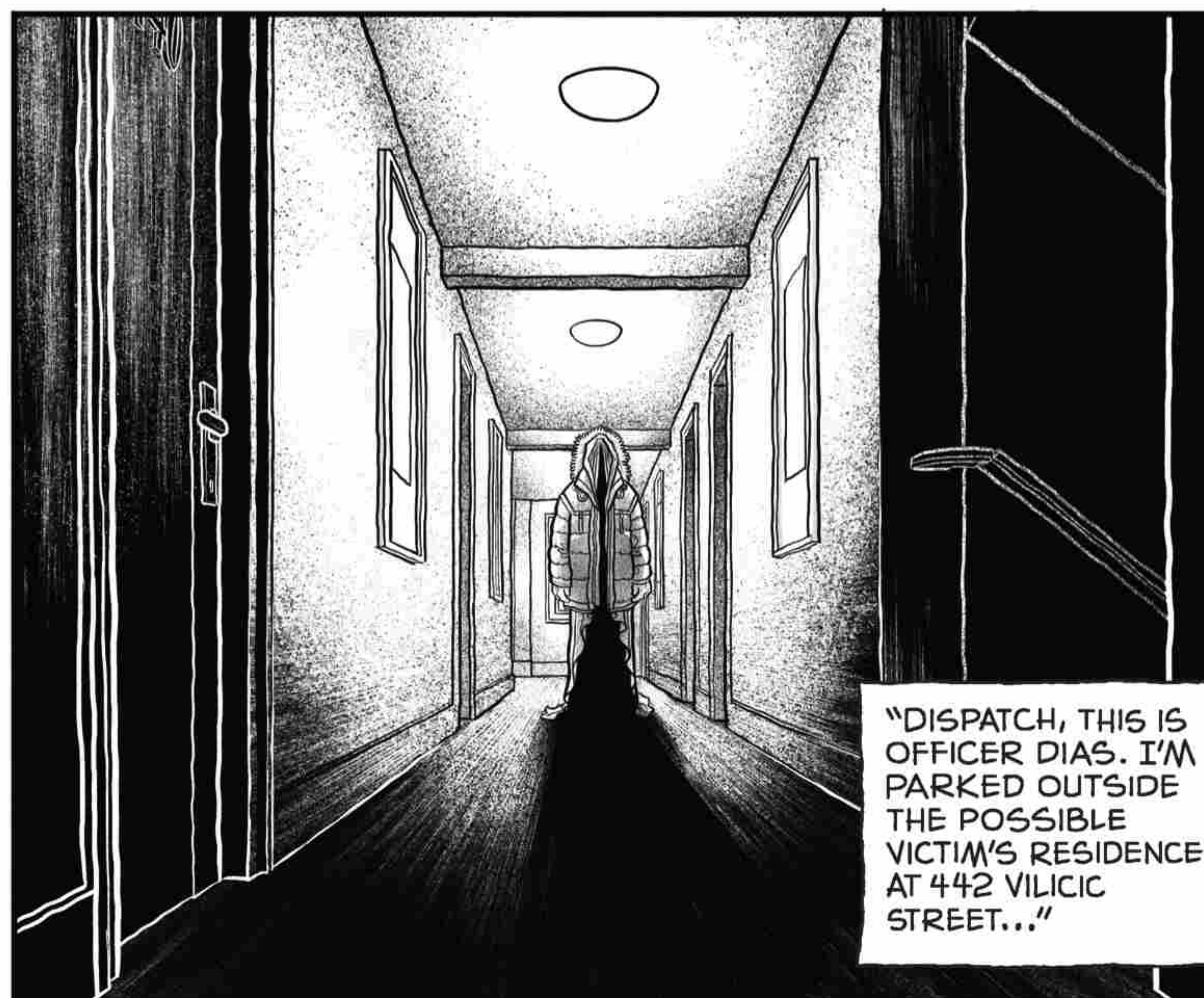


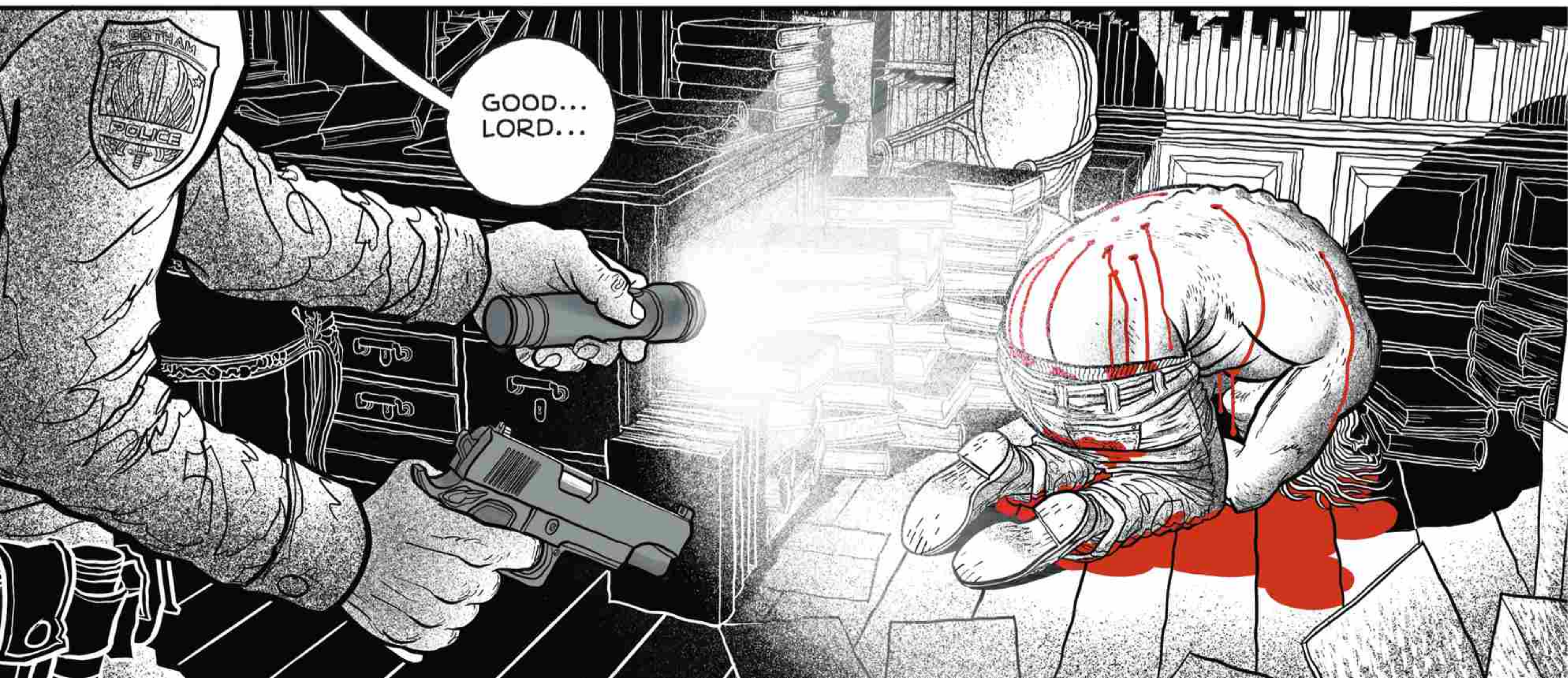
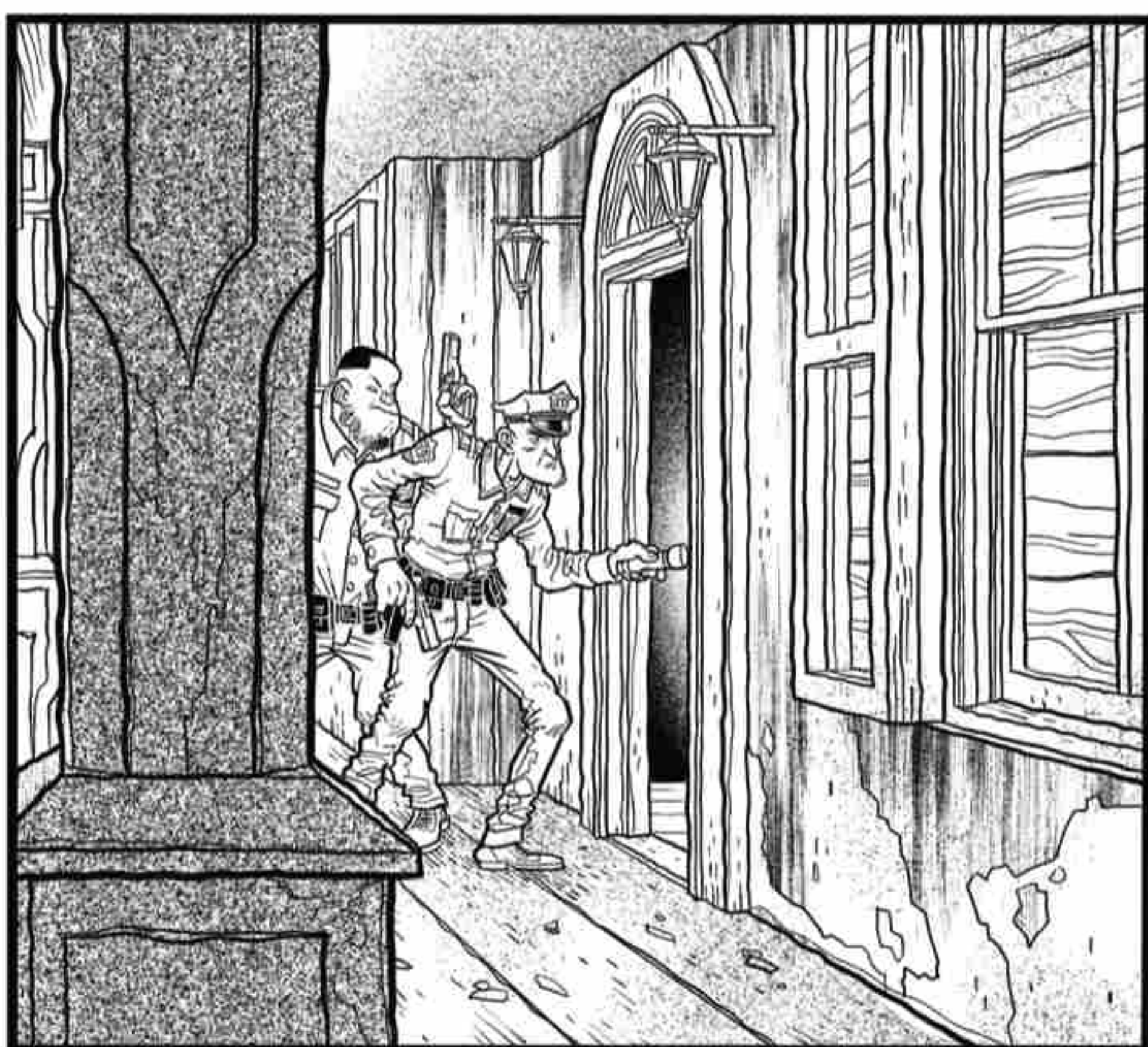
MY OWN MEN ARE ACCUSING ME OF TURNING A **BLIND EYE** TO BATMAN! SAYING THAT IF **THEY** COULD PLAY BY THEIR OWN RULES, TOO, BATMAN WOULDN'T MAKE MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE!

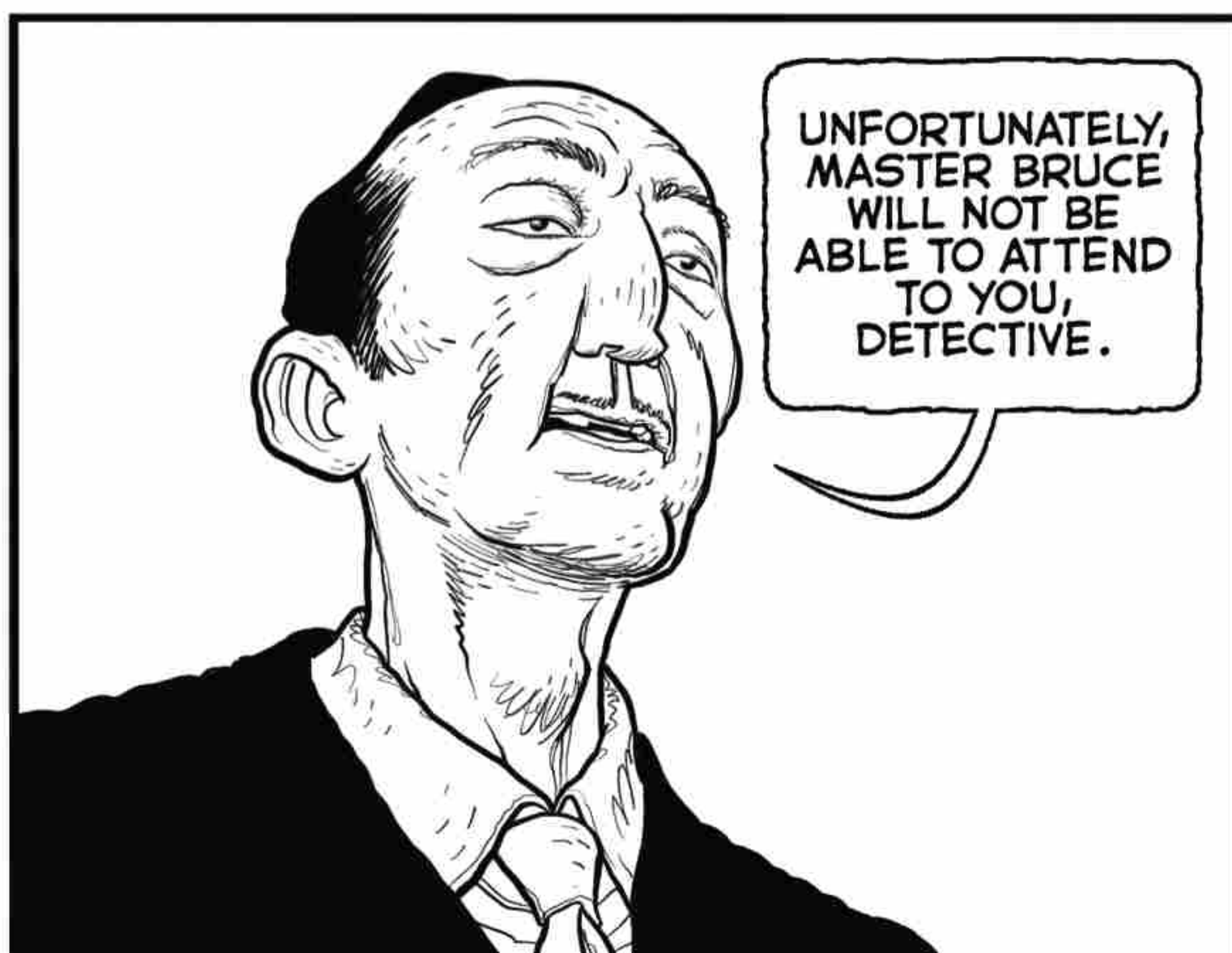
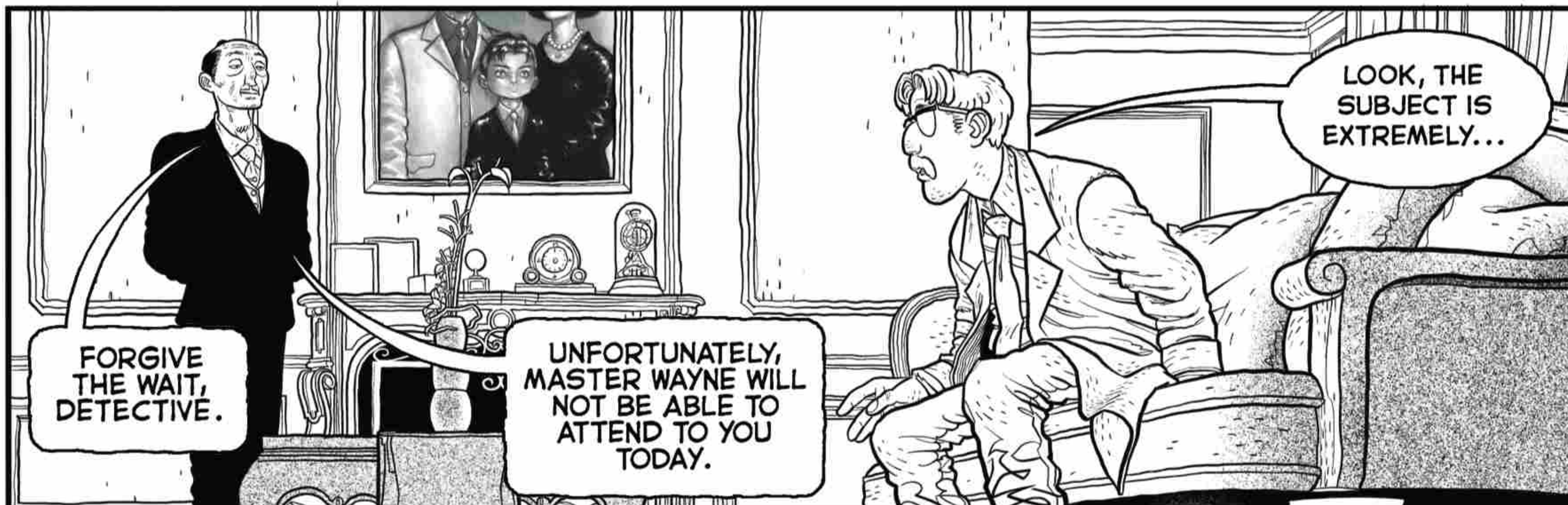
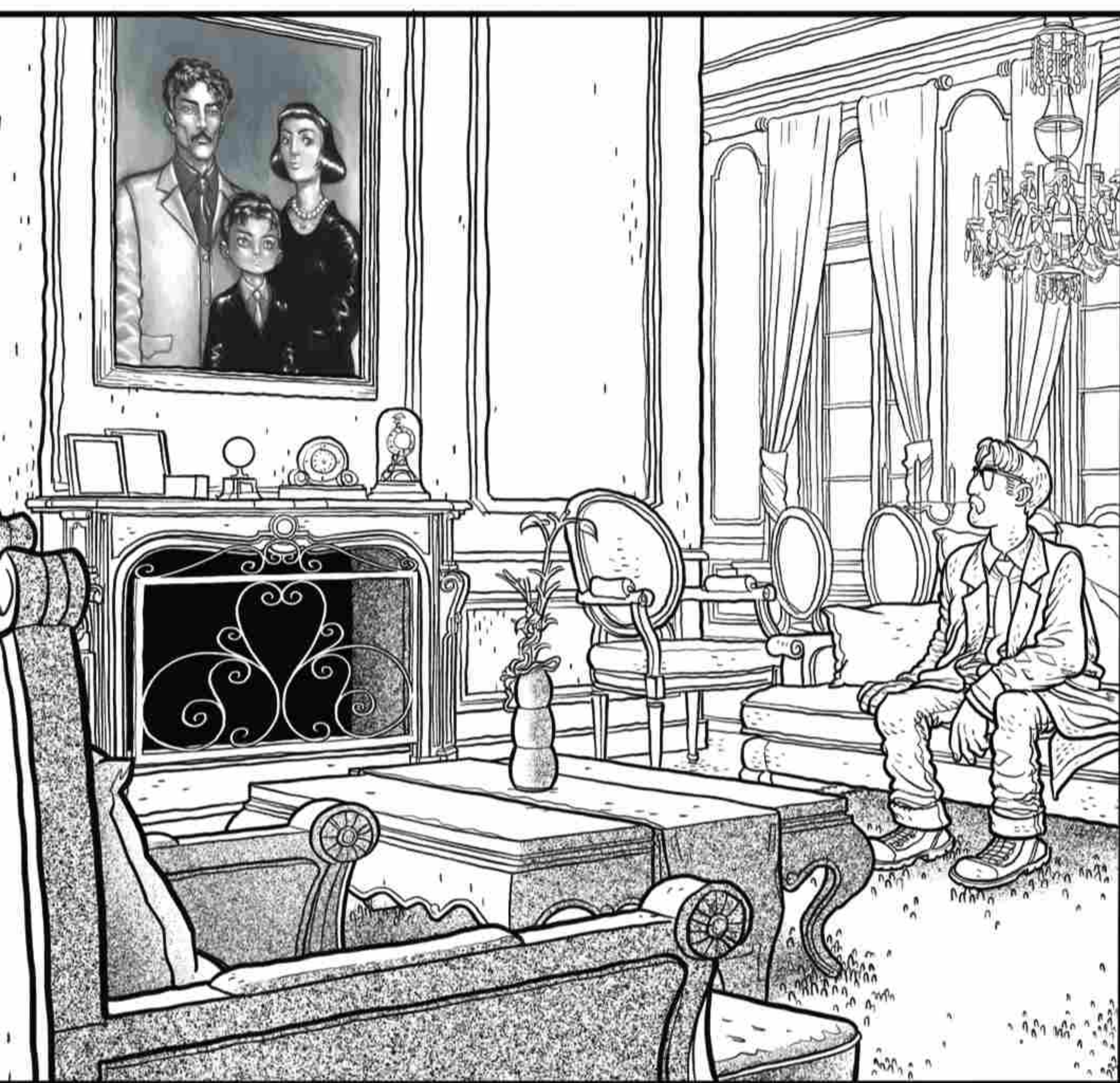


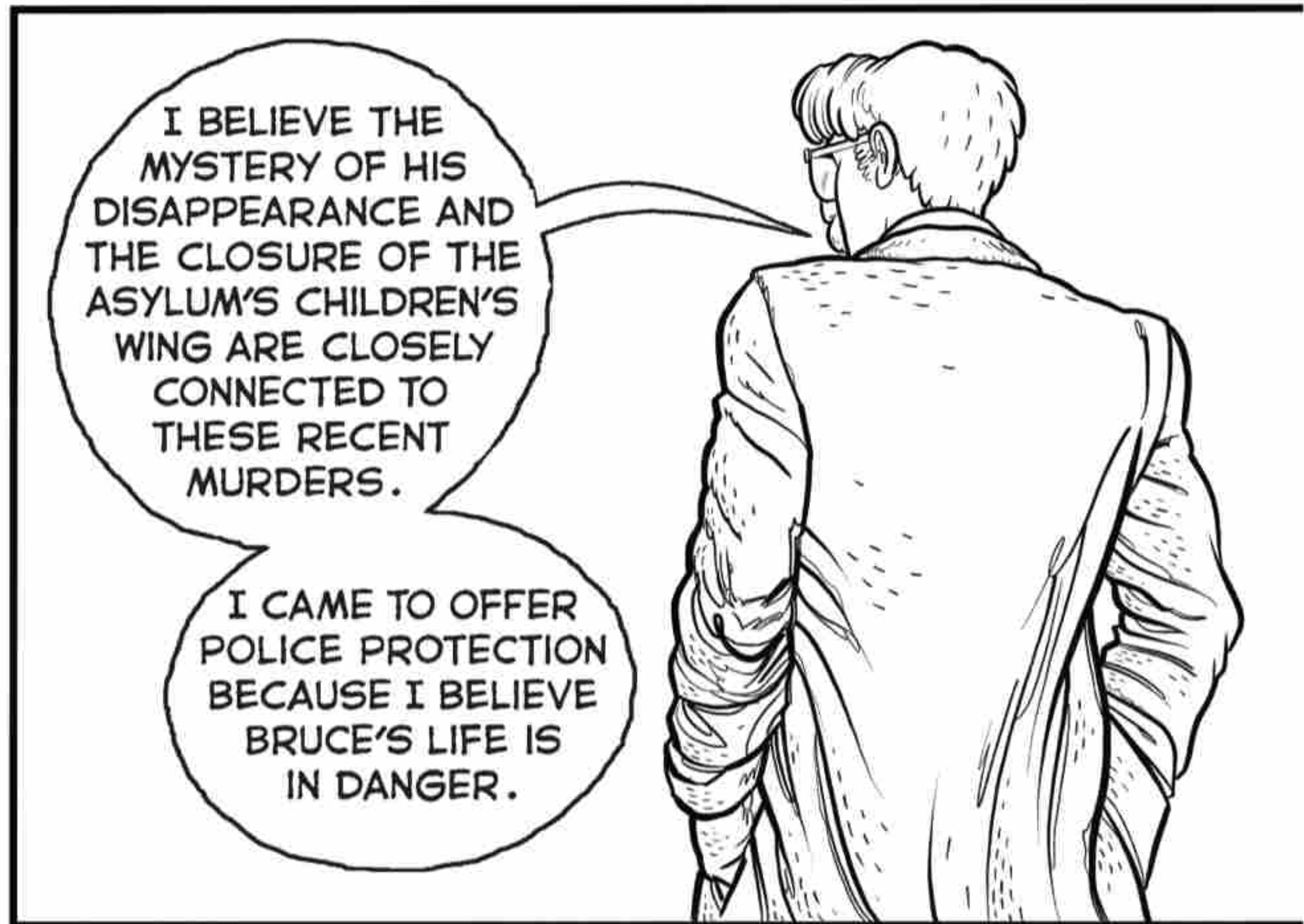
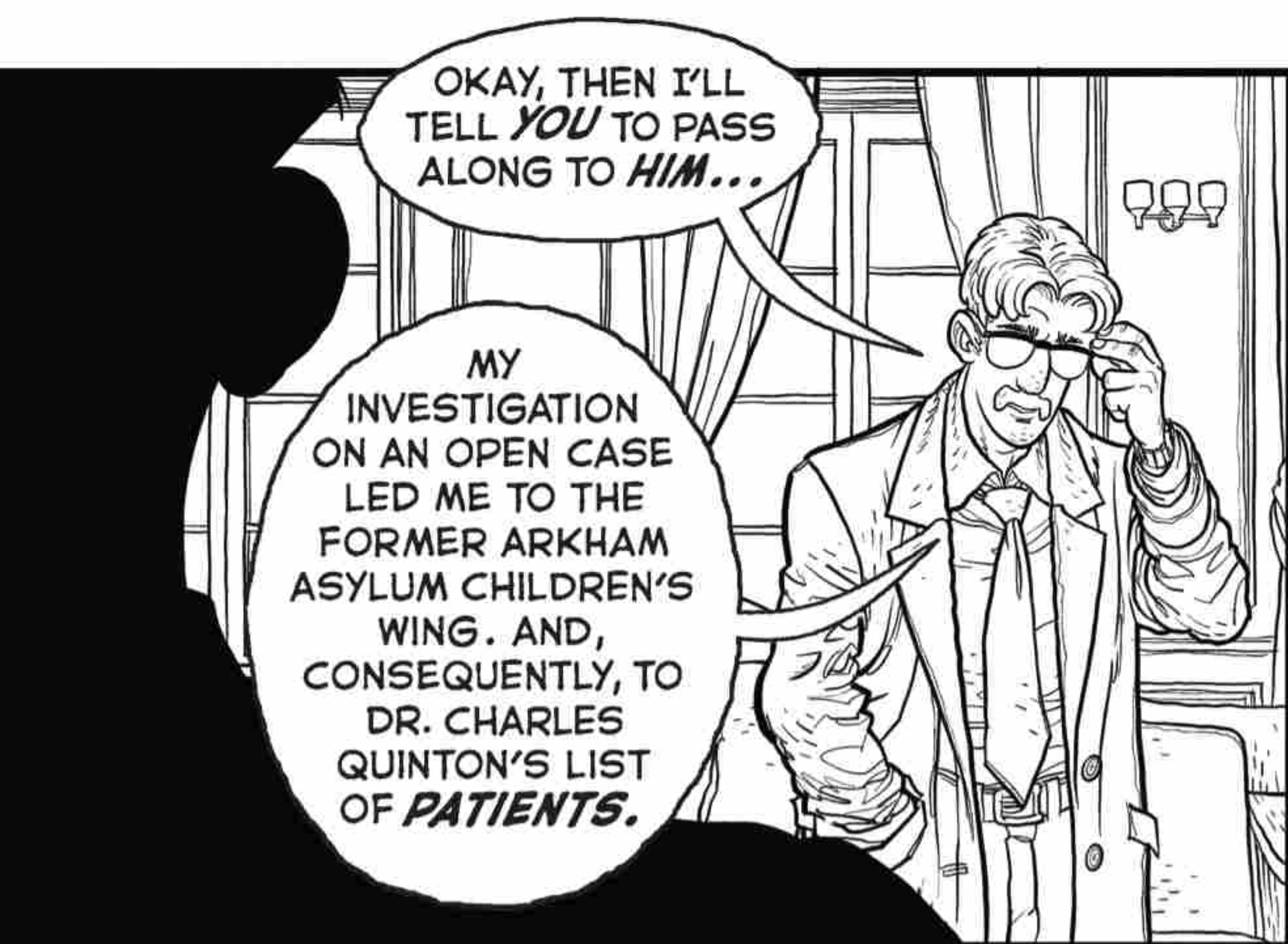
IF YOU BOTH CROSS THAT LINE AGAIN, I **WILL** GO AFTER HIM. AND I'LL MAKE SURE **YOU'RE** INDICTED AS HIS ACCOMPLICE.











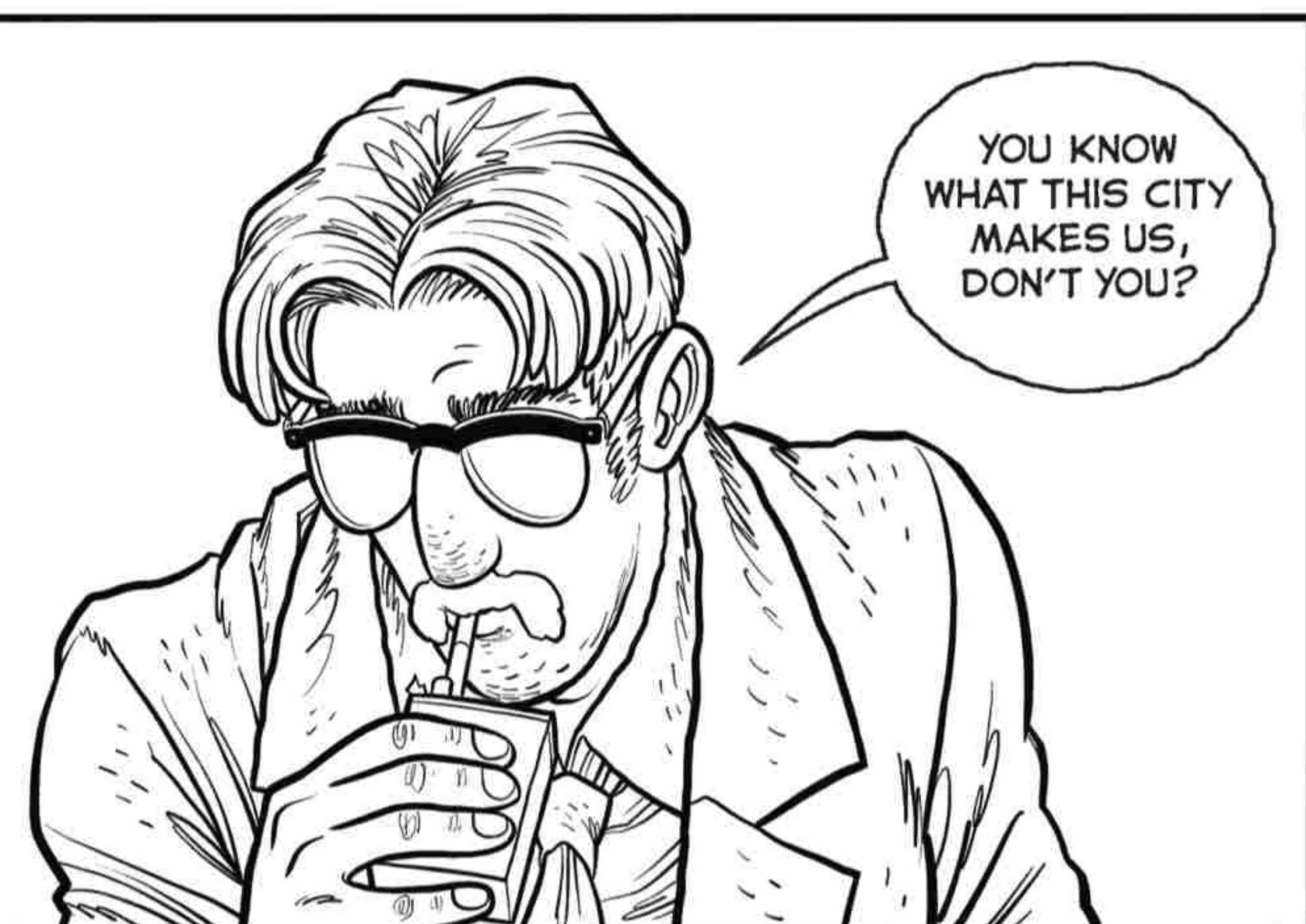


BECAUSE I WAS STUCK IN THE **SHIT** THAT NIGHT...

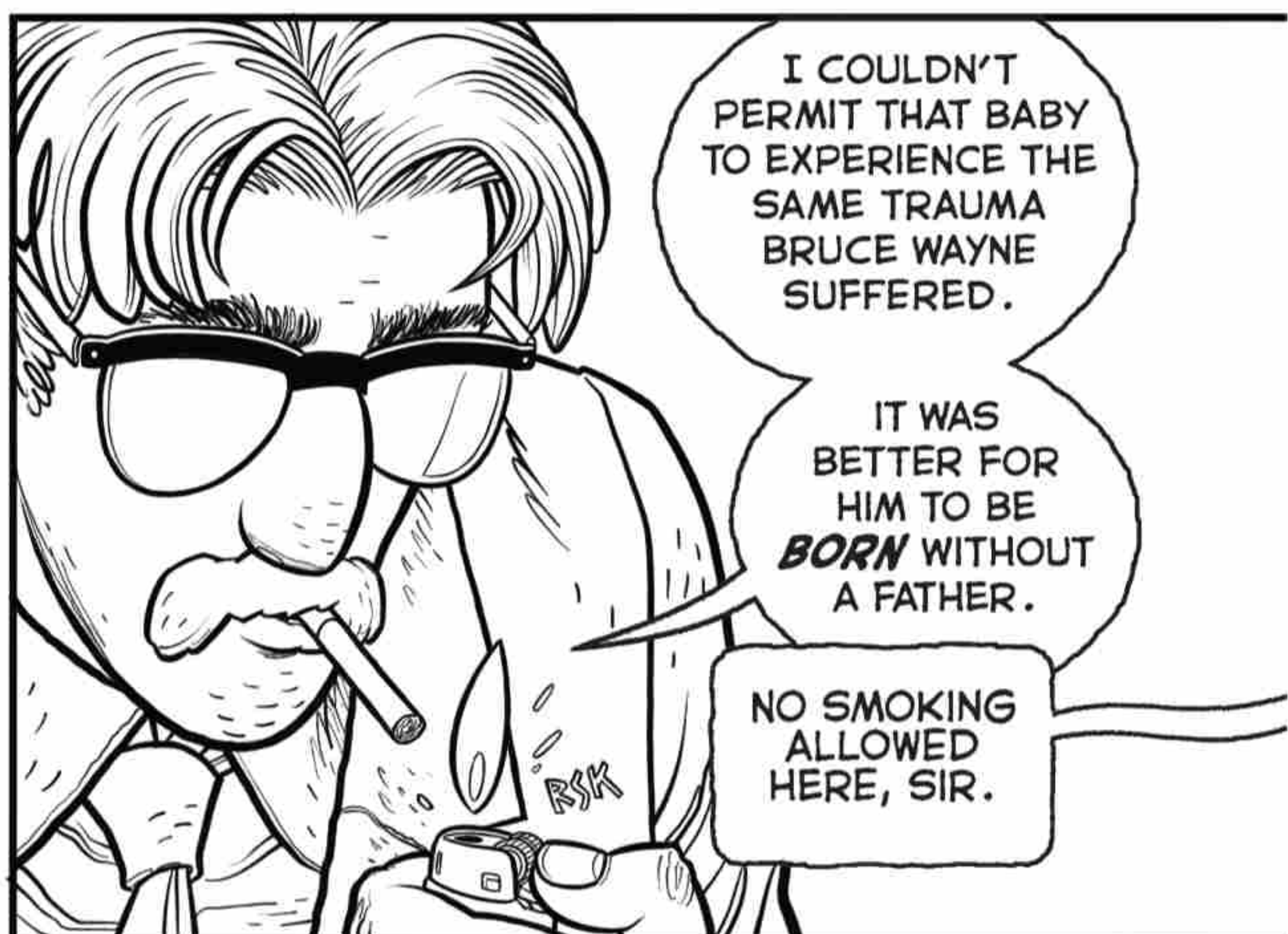
...THE LOVE OF MY LIFE WALKED AWAY WITH THE BABY WE WERE EXPECTING.

DETECTIVE...I FEEL OBLIGED TO SAY THAT WE WON'T NEED YOUR PROTECTION, NOR YOUR CONFESSIONS.

FORGIVE ME. WE ALL HAVE SINS THAT WE'RE TOO ASHAMED TO CONFESS TO A PRIEST...



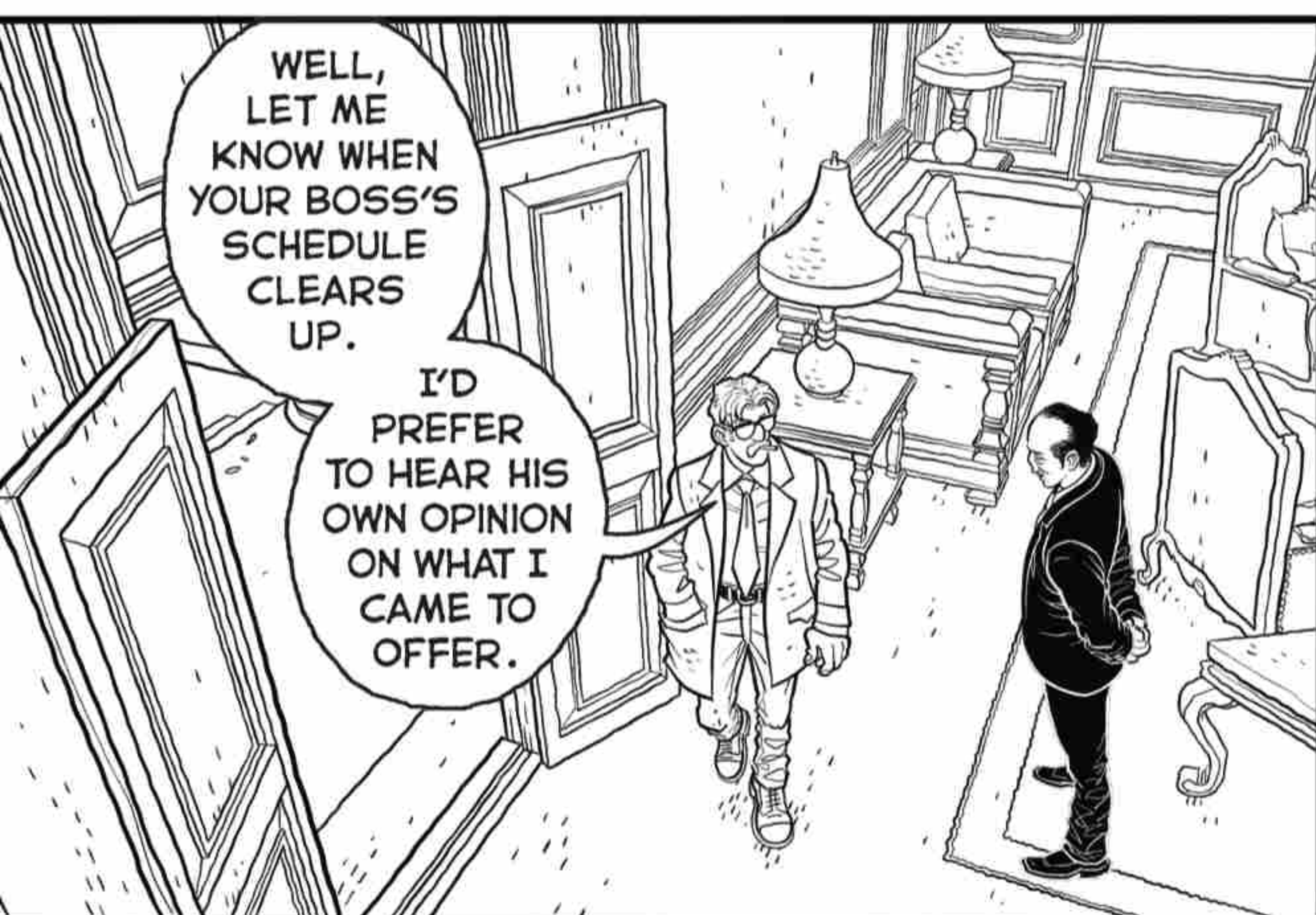
YOU KNOW WHAT THIS CITY MAKES US, DON'T YOU?



I COULDN'T PERMIT THAT BABY TO EXPERIENCE THE SAME TRAUMA BRUCE WAYNE SUFFERED.

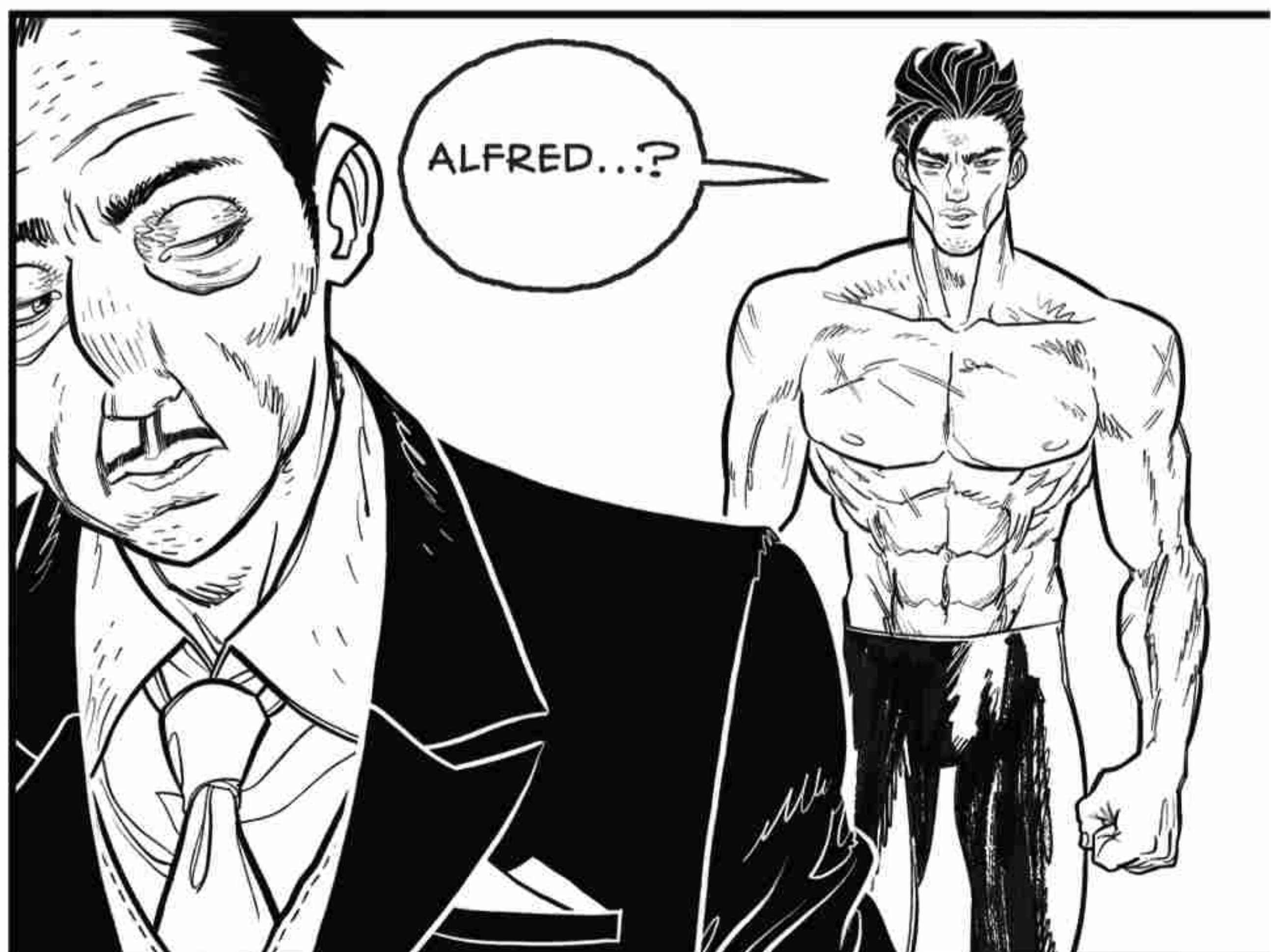
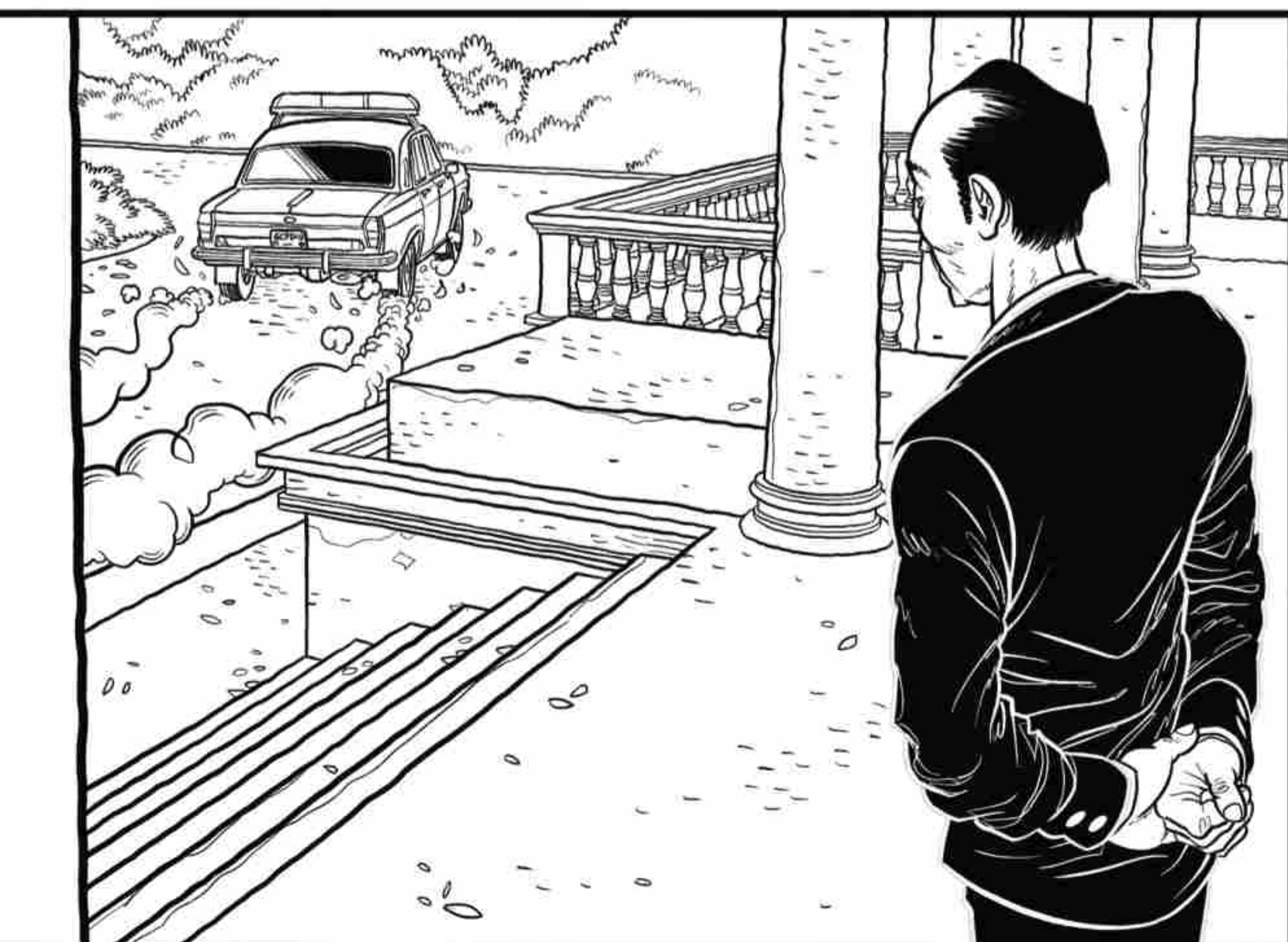
IT WAS BETTER FOR HIM TO BE **BORN** WITHOUT A FATHER.

NO SMOKING ALLOWED HERE, SIR.

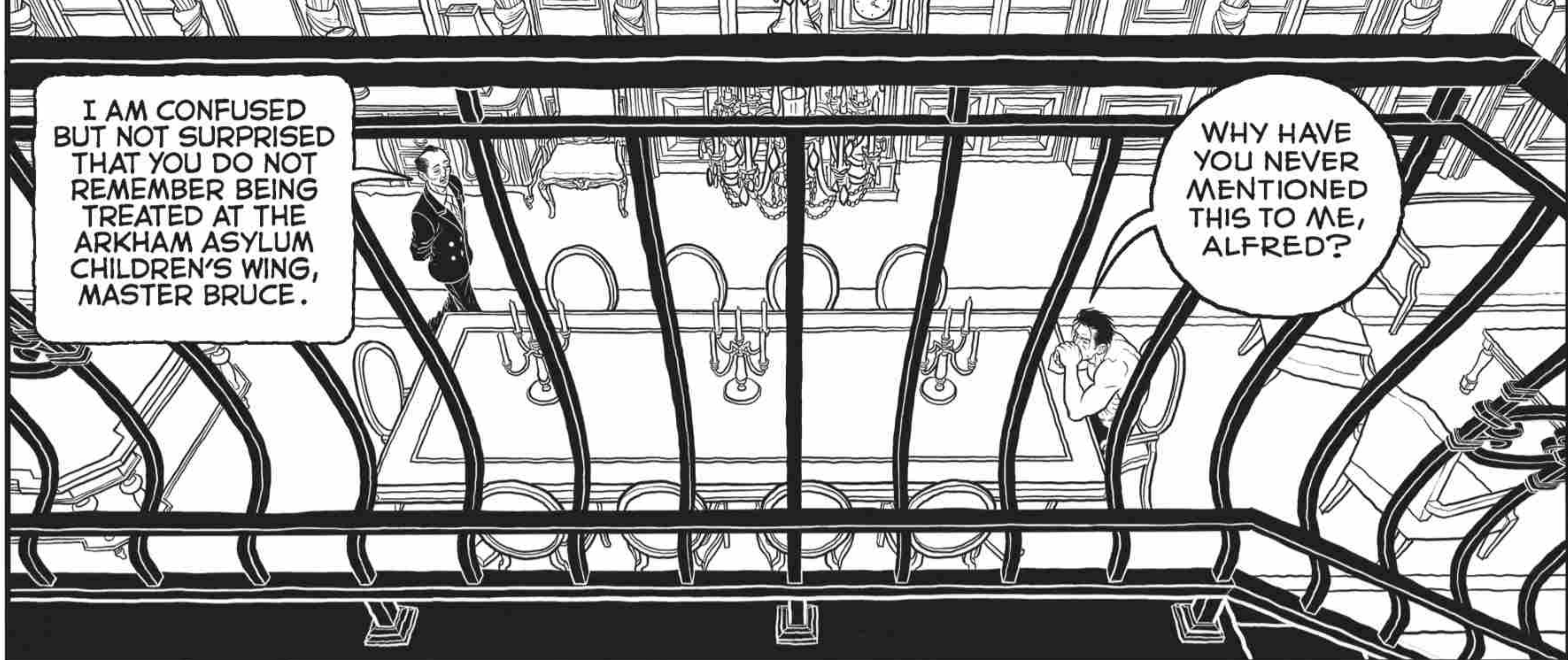


WELL, LET ME KNOW WHEN YOUR BOSS'S SCHEDULE CLEARS UP.

I'D PREFER TO HEAR HIS OWN OPINION ON WHAT I CAME TO OFFER.

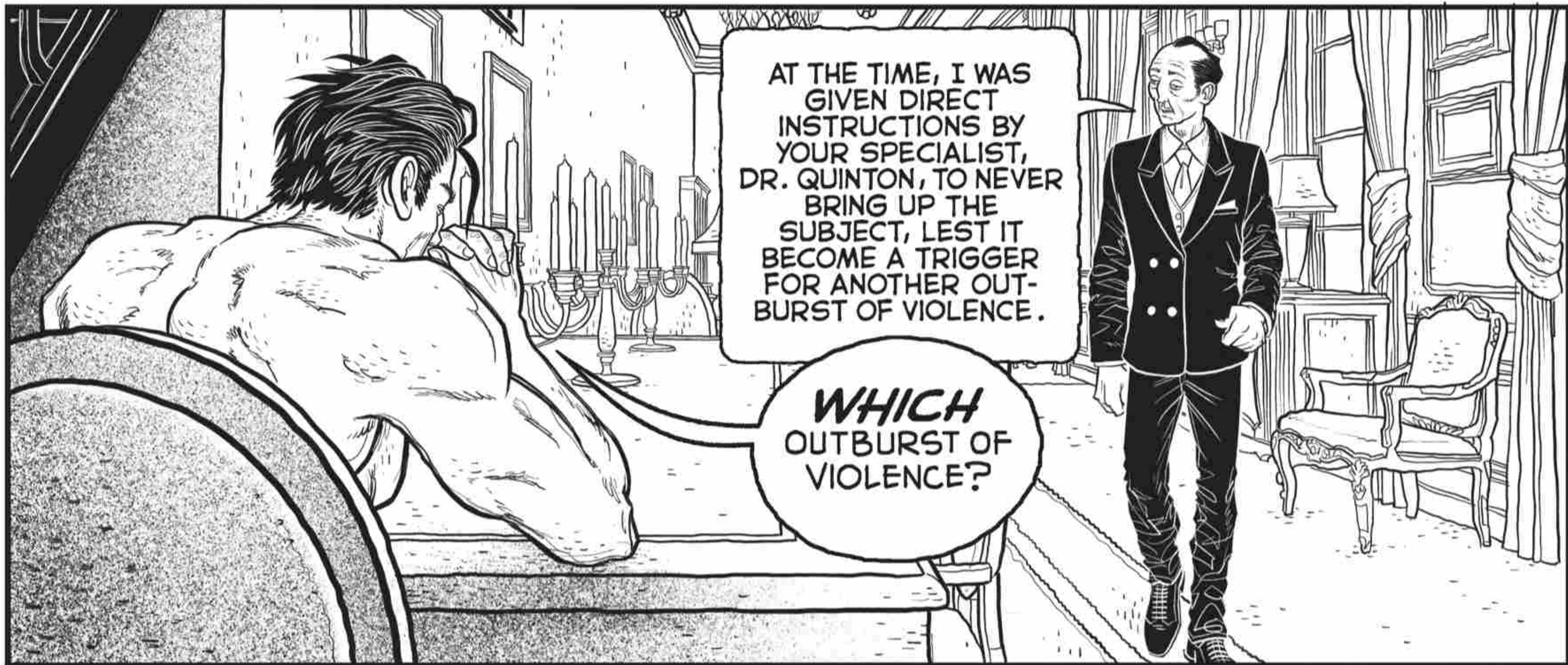


ALFRED...?



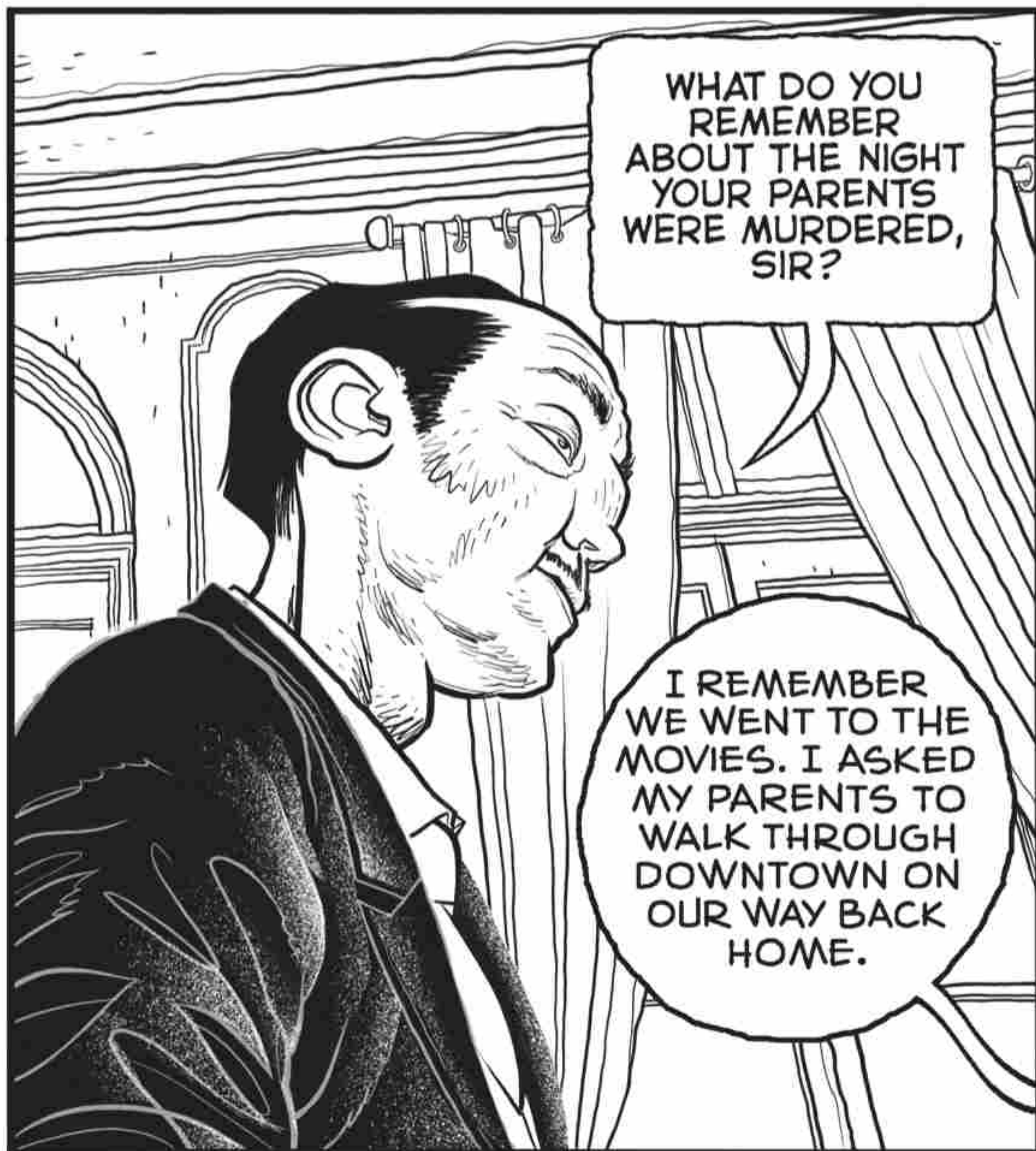
I AM CONFUSED BUT NOT SURPRISED THAT YOU DO NOT REMEMBER BEING TREATED AT THE ARKHAM ASYLUM CHILDREN'S WING, MASTER BRUCE.

WHY HAVE YOU NEVER MENTIONED THIS TO ME, ALFRED?



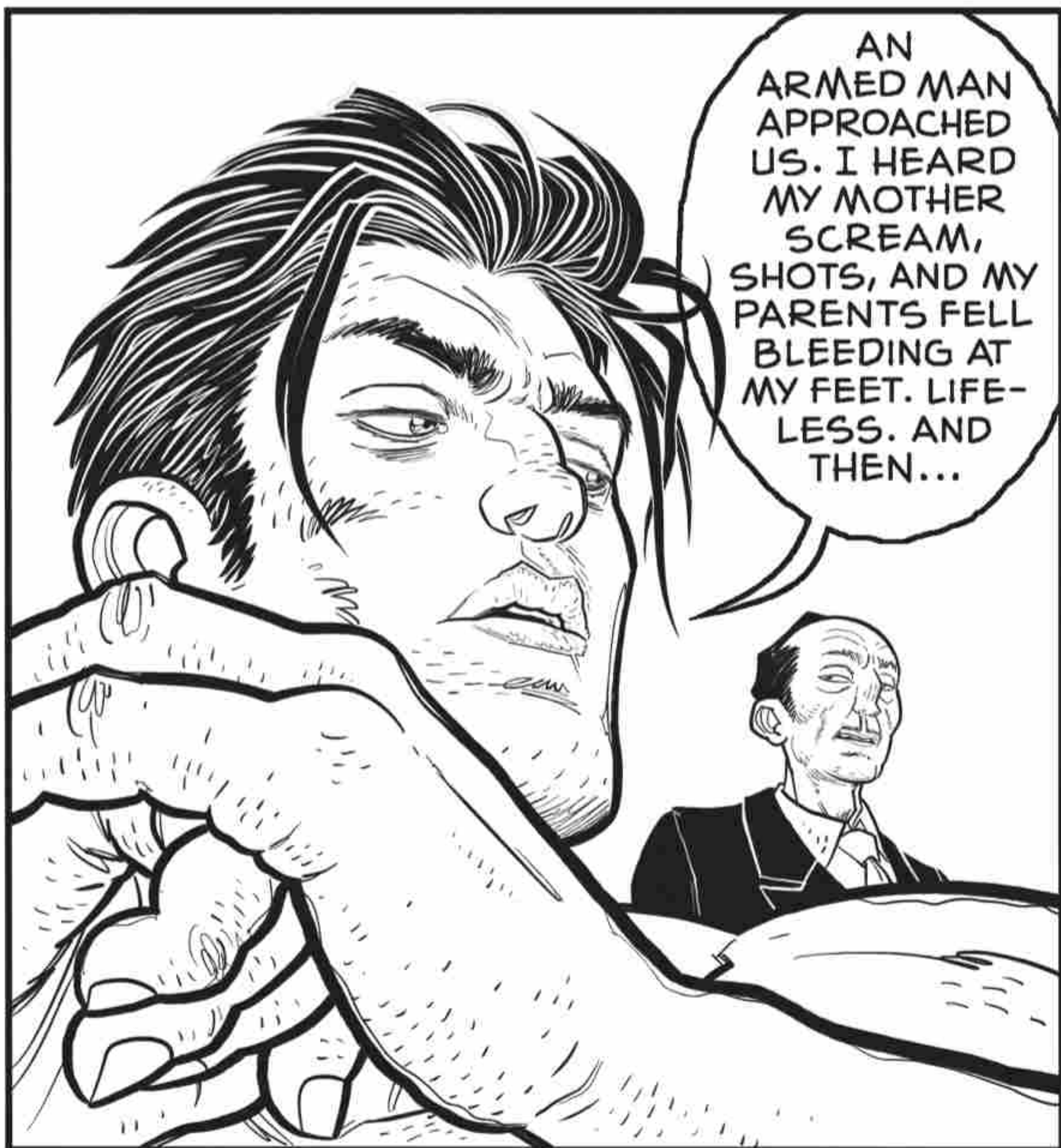
AT THE TIME, I WAS GIVEN DIRECT INSTRUCTIONS BY YOUR SPECIALIST, DR. QUINTON, TO NEVER BRING UP THE SUBJECT, LEST IT BECOME A TRIGGER FOR ANOTHER OUTBURST OF VIOLENCE.

WHICH OUTBURST OF VIOLENCE?



WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT THE NIGHT YOUR PARENTS WERE MURDERED, SIR?

I REMEMBER WE WENT TO THE MOVIES. I ASKED MY PARENTS TO WALK THROUGH DOWNTOWN ON OUR WAY BACK HOME.



AN ARMED MAN APPROACHED US. I HEARD MY MOTHER SCREAM, SHOTS, AND MY PARENTS FELL BLEEDING AT MY FEET. LIFELESS. AND THEN...

"THEN..."

"THIS STRANGE VISION ALWAYS COMES TO MIND..."

"A DEMON CUB WITH A BROKEN WING..."



DR. QUINTON PROBABLY
ALTERED YOUR REAL
MEMORIES DURING THE
TREATMENT.

"FOR YOU, THAT
NIGHT ENDS WITH
THE MURDER OF
YOUR PARENTS..."

"...BUT WHAT
HAPPENED
NEXT WAS
NEARLY AS
BRUTAL.

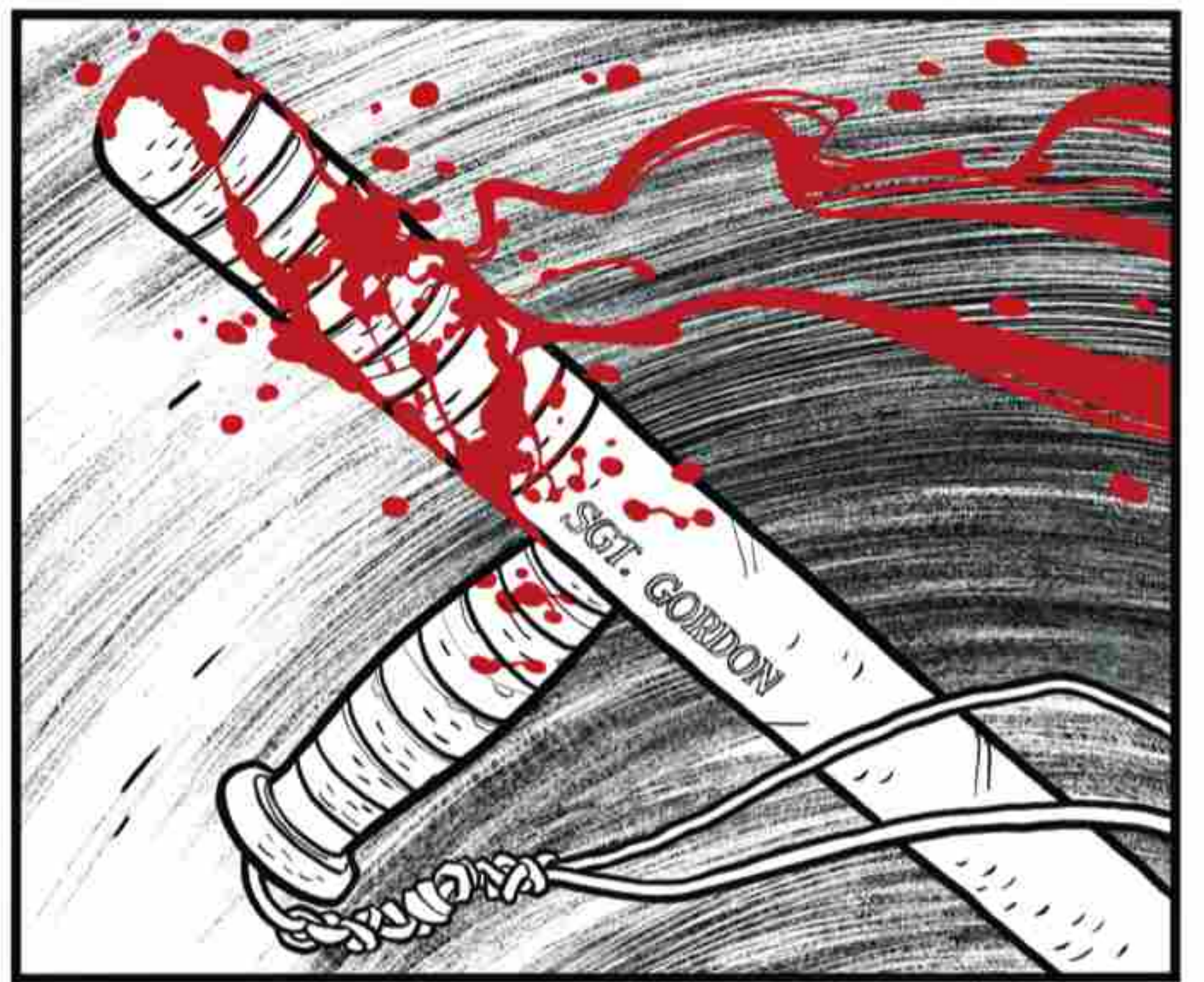
"YOU WERE IN
SHOCK. I WANTED
TO TAKE YOU HOME.

"BUT THEN YOU
DISAPPEARED...
LIKE A GHOST.

"THE POLICE AND I
LOOKED DOWN EVERY
DARK ALLEY FOR YOU.
FOR HOURS..."



"BUT THEN
WE FOUND
YOU."



"YOU THOUGHT YOU
WENT AFTER YOUR
PARENTS' KILLER,
BUT ENDED UP
BEATING A HOME-
LESS MAN... UNTIL
HE WAS PARALYZED."

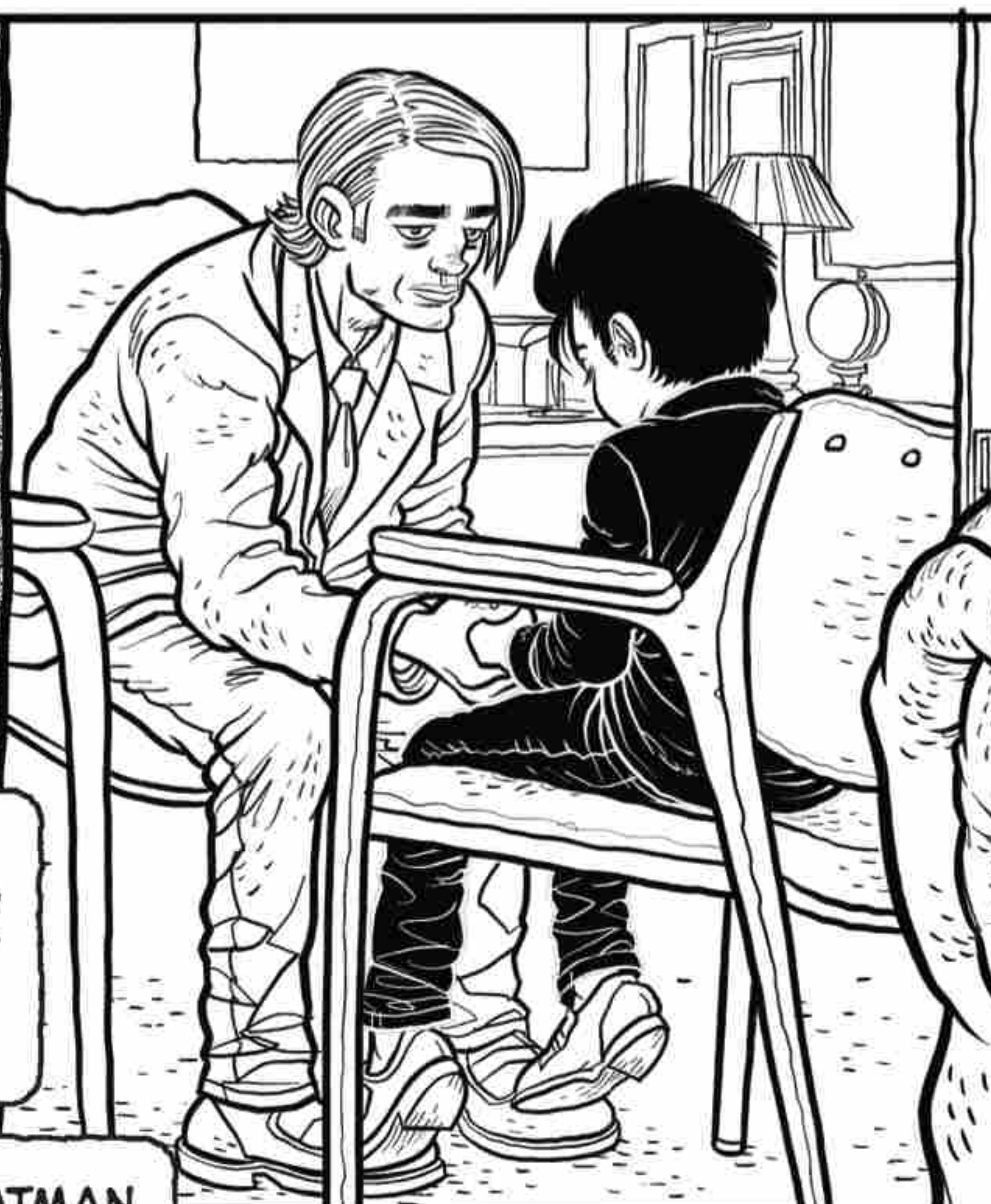
CHILD
PSYCHIATRIST

DR. QUINTON

ARKHAM ASYLUM
CHILDREN'S
WING

"DR. QUINTON
OFFERED HELP,
AND HIS TREAT-
MENT SEEMED
EFFECTIVE..."

"...UNTIL BATMAN
CAME ALONG."





ALFRED, I NEED THE TRUTH...HOW COULD YOU HIDE THIS FROM ME?

AND WHY HAVE YOU NEVER QUESTIONED THE IDEA OF BATMAN?

I COULDN'T STAND TO SEE YOU TAKE ON EVEN MORE GUILT...ON TOP OF WHAT YOU ALREADY CARRIED FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF YOUR PARENTS.

AND BATMAN...AT LEAST HE BROUGHT MEANING TO OUR LIVES.

OUR LIVES?

YOU WEREN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO LOST LOVED ONES THAT DAY.

AND I BELIEVED THAT A PURPOSE, HOWEVER ABSURD, WOULD KEEP ME FROM LOSING YOU, TOO.

BUT I WAS WRONG...

BRUCE WAYNE IS MY WEAKNESS, ALFRED...

BUT HOW CAN I ERASE HIS MEMORIES IF I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY ARE?

HAVE YOU REFLECTED ON THE PATTERN YOU ARE REPEATING, SIR?

DR. QUINTON ERASED YOUR MEMORIES, AND NOW YOU'RE TRYING TO DO THE SAME.

ALFRED...

WHAT IF BATMAN WASN'T EVEN MY IDEA?

I THINK *THAT* ANSWER LIES IN FINDING OUT WHO *BRUCE WAYNE* REALLY IS...



THE
SCRIBE IS
DEAD.

BUT OUR MEN
MANAGED TO
REMOVE ALL THE
SACRED BOOKS
FROM HIS
SCRIPTORIUM.

GOOD.



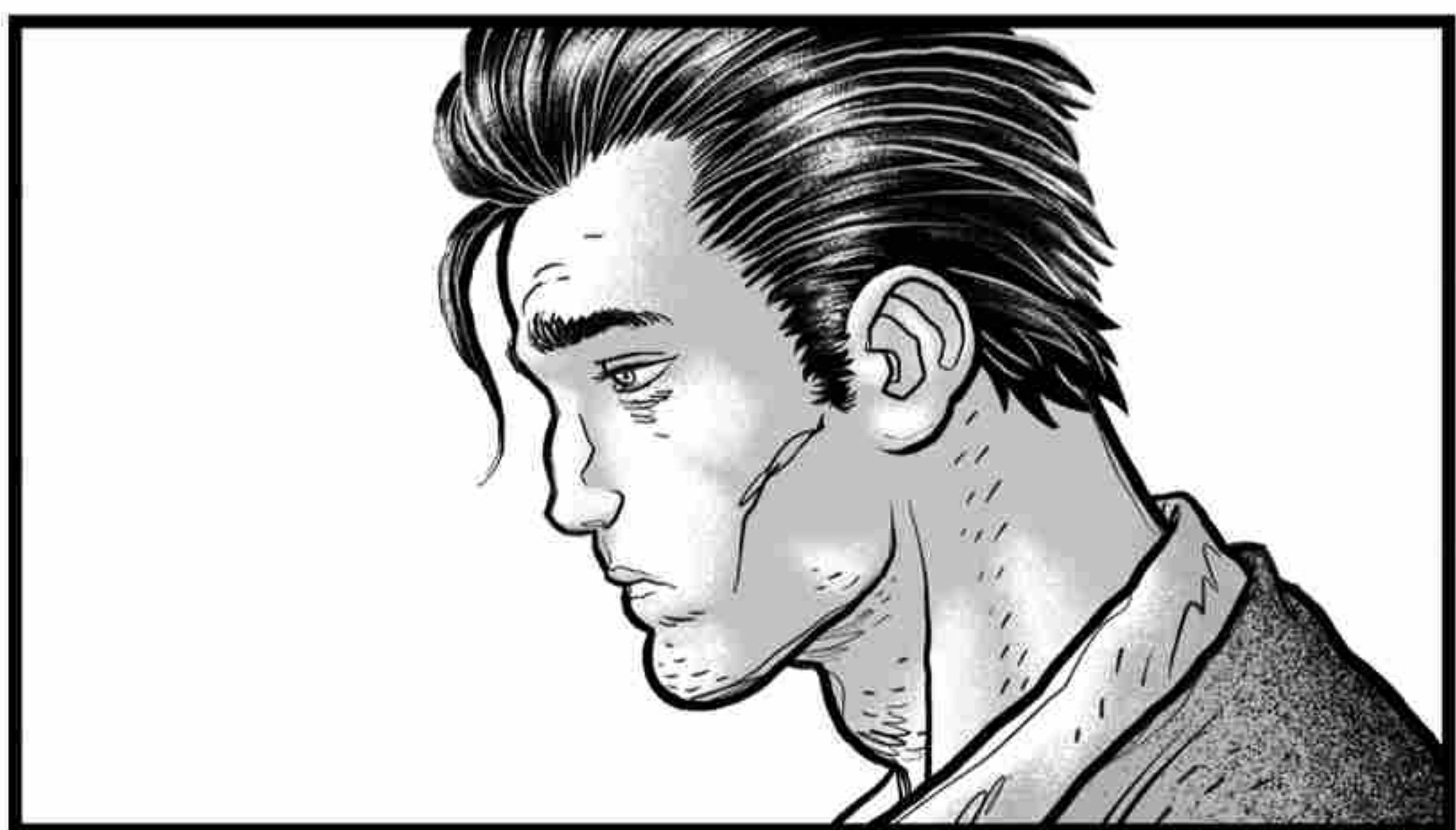
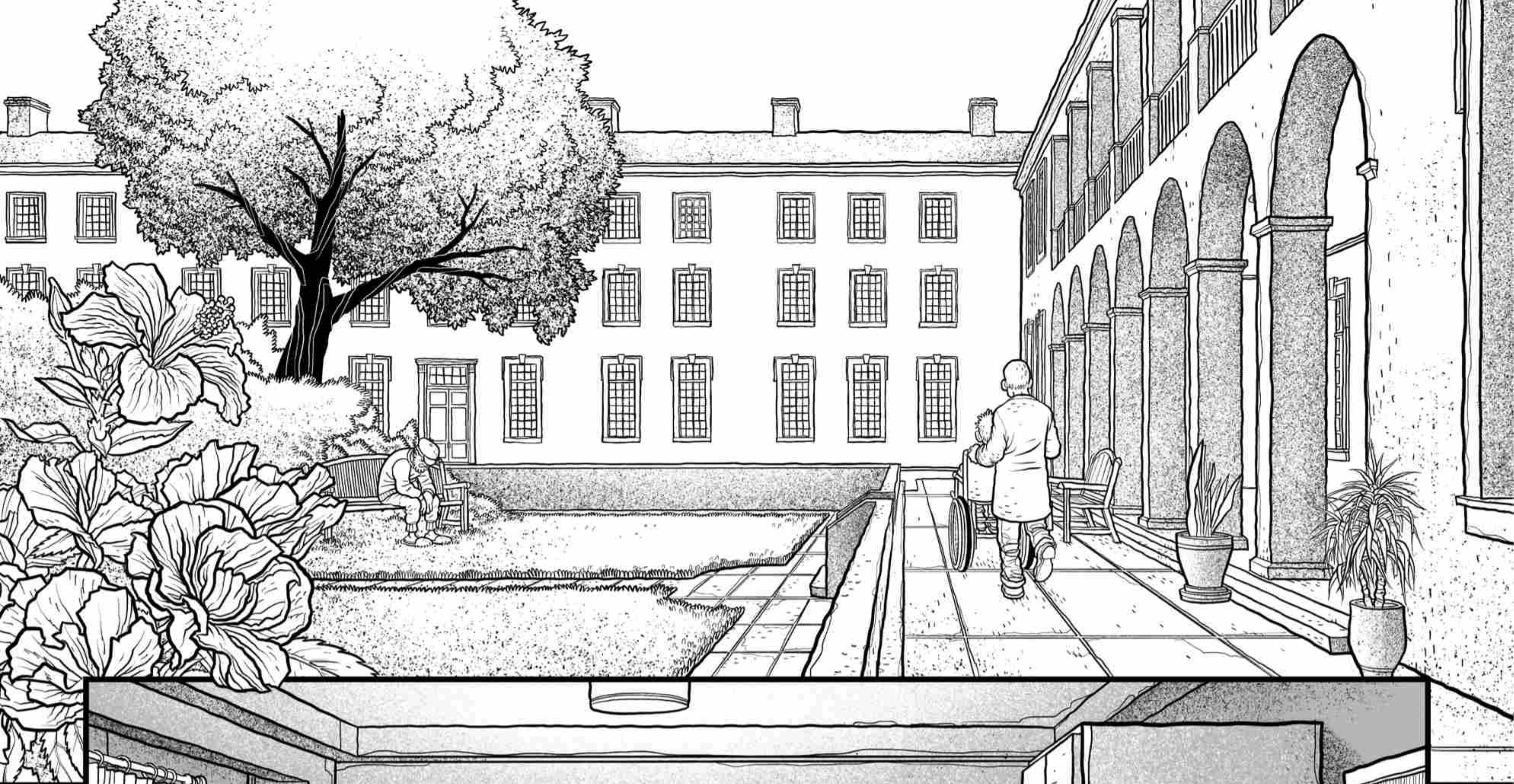
SHE
CAME
TO SEE
ME.

DON'T
WORRY. WE
CAN--

NO.

I'M
WAITING FOR
HER.

... "NOW
AND IN THE
HOUR OF OUR
DEATH."



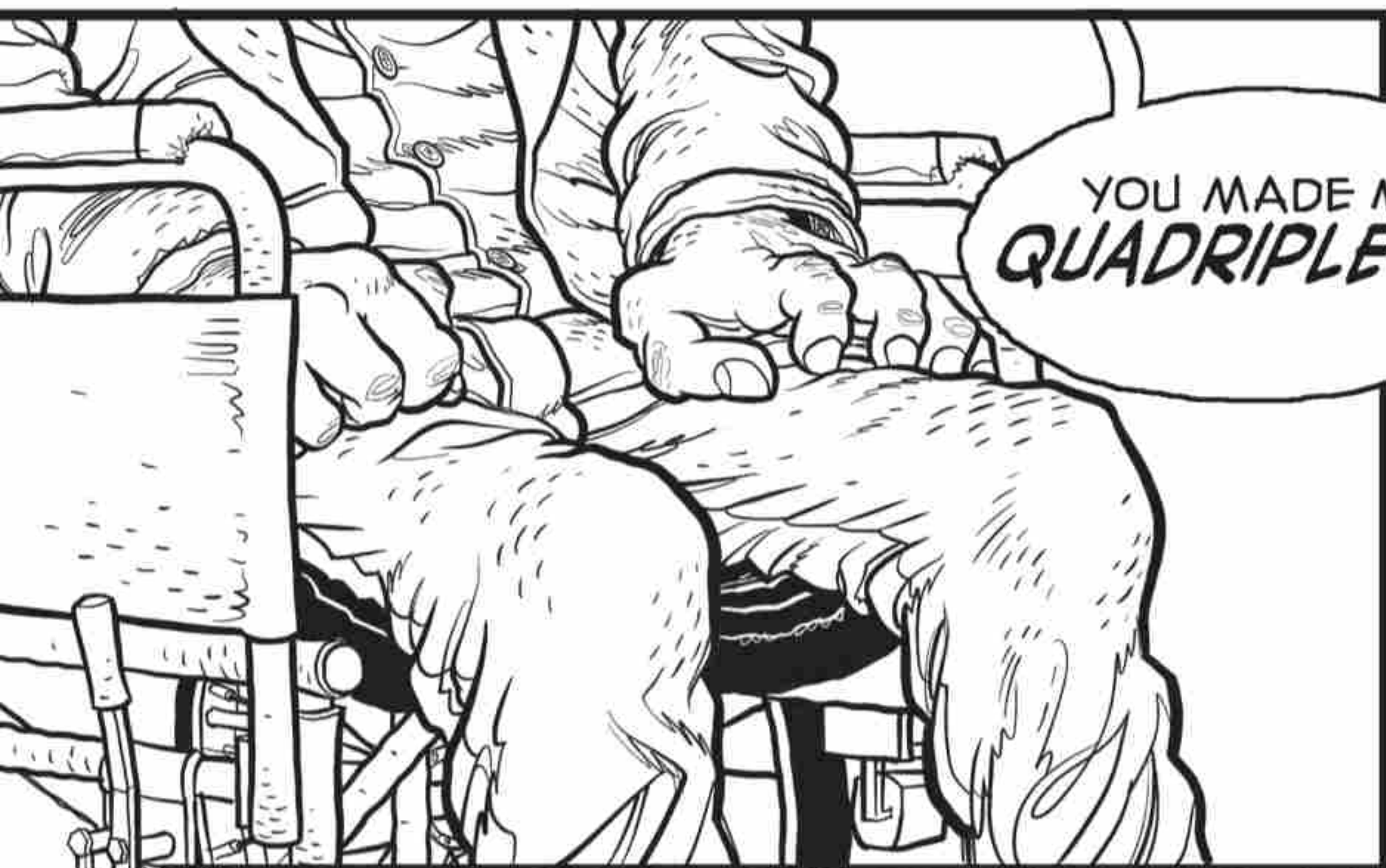


ARE YOU JUST GOING TO *STARE* AT ME WITH THAT PITYING FACE?

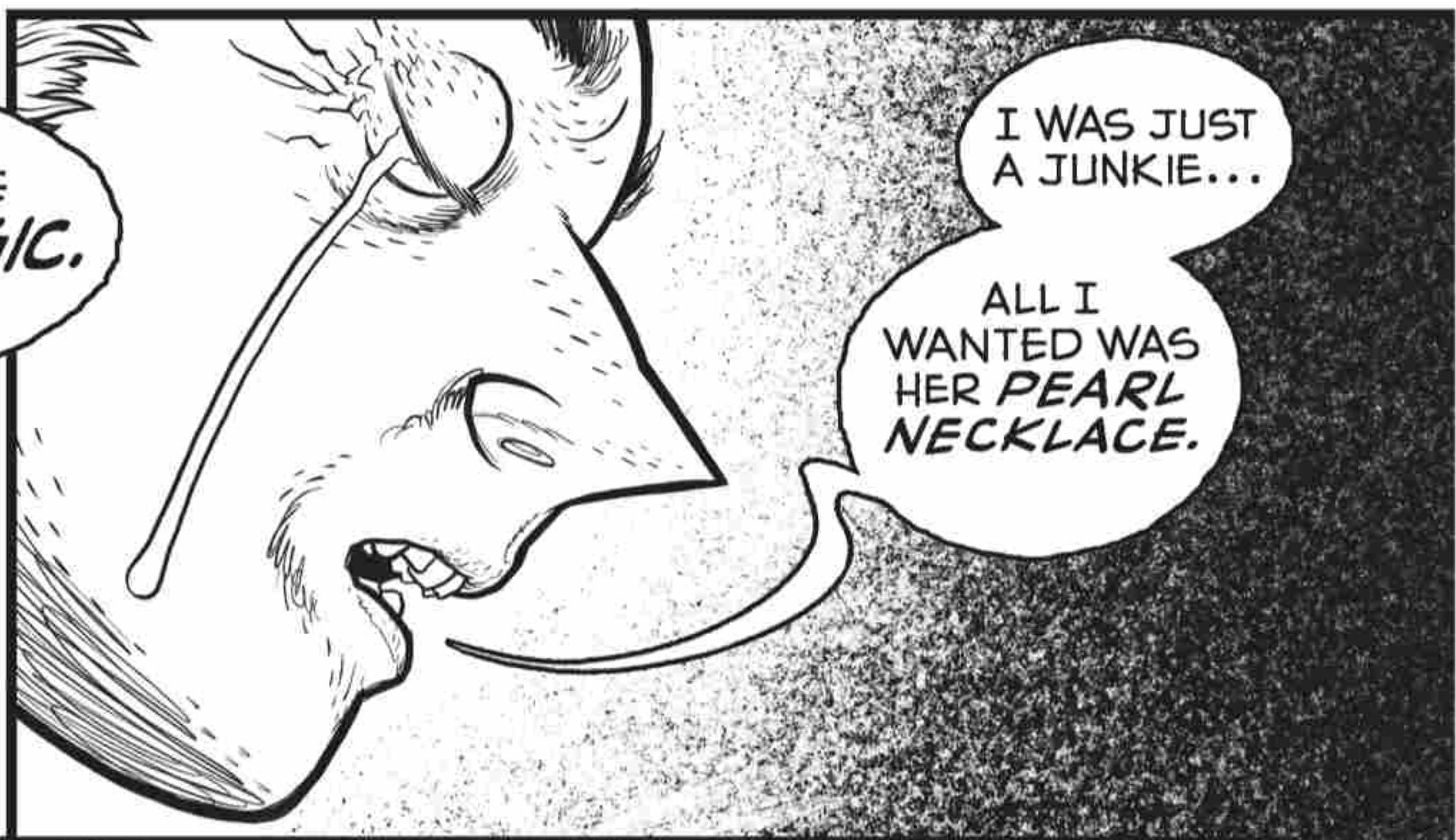
I WAITED SO LONG FOR THIS MOMENT...

I WAS SCARED, BUT I HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE.

I DIDN'T DESERVE *THIS*.



YOU MADE ME *QUADRIPELEGIC*.



I WAS JUST A JUNKIE...

ALL I WANTED WAS HER *PEARL NECKLACE*.



BUT YOUR FATHER REACTED AND I SHOT.

WHAT?



I WAS AFRAID TO CONFESS.

NOW YOU'LL THINK OF ME AS OFTEN AS I THINK OF YOU.

EVERY NIGHT... UNTIL THE END OF YOUR LIFE.

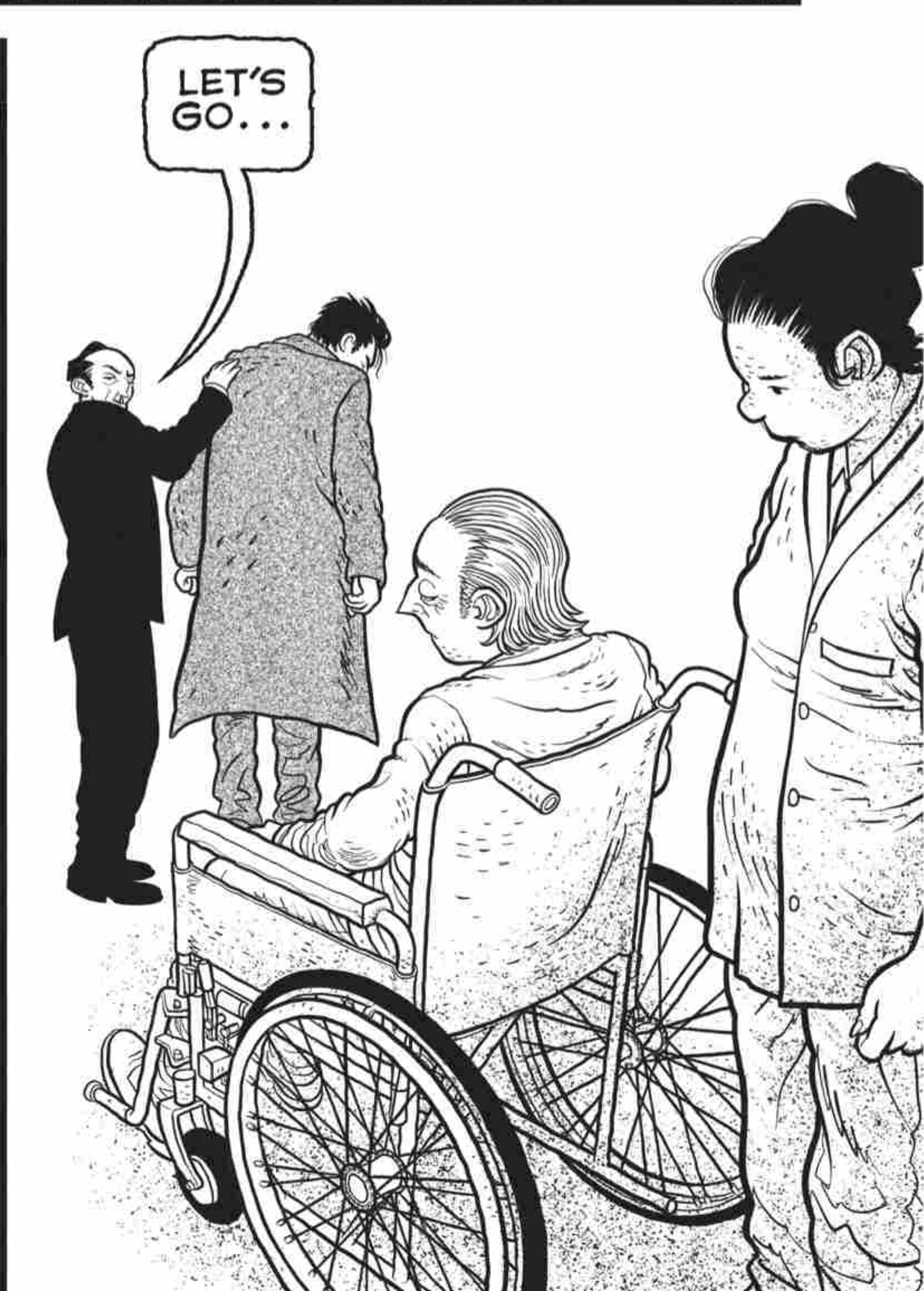


MASTER BRUCE...

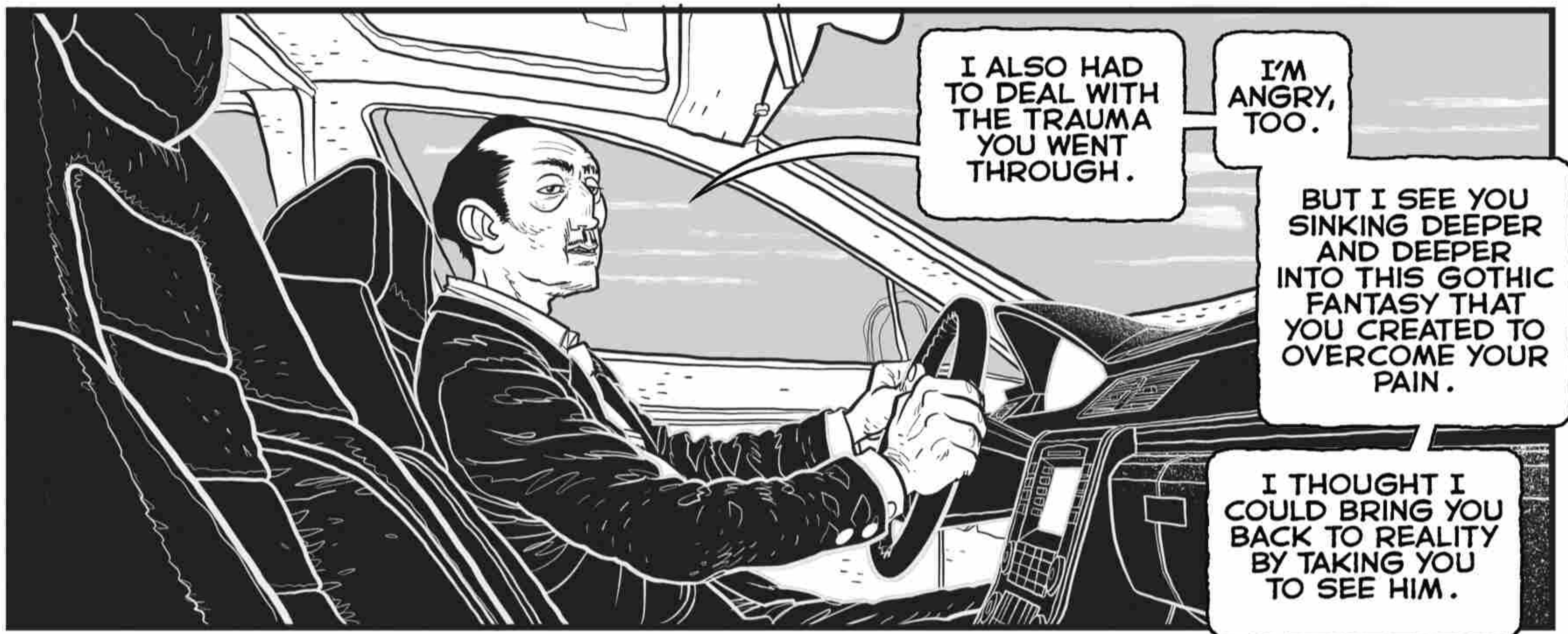


MASTER BRUCE... LET'S GO!

SIR!



LET'S GO...





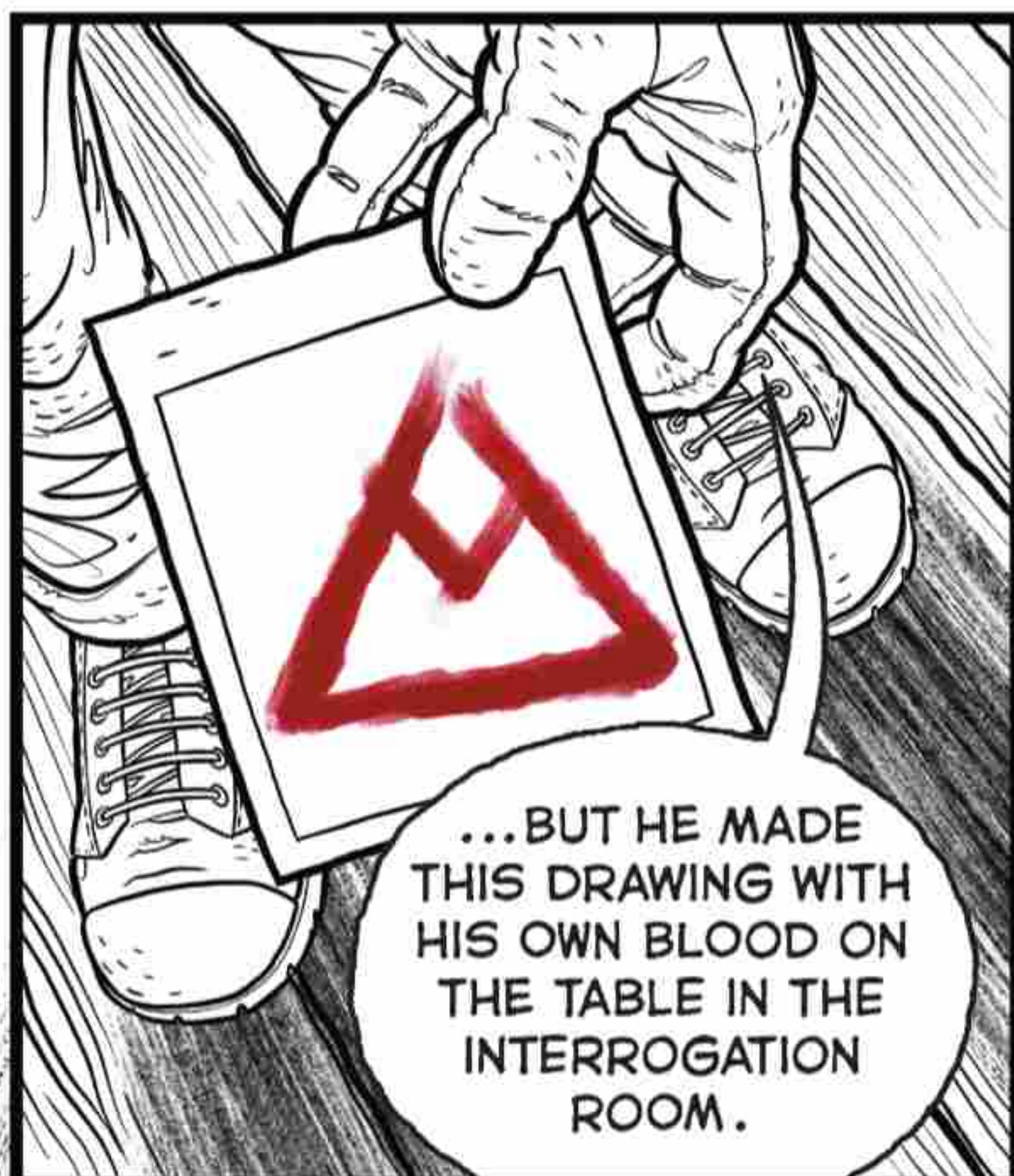


MY RANGE-
OF-ACTION
THEORY WAS
RIGHT.

BUT WE
ARRIVED TOO
LATE.

THIS CONFIRMS
THAT THE CRIMINAL
WE ARRESTED ISN'T
THE SERIAL KILLER
WE'RE LOOKING
FOR...

I'M **CERTAIN**
THE NEXT VICTIM IS
ON DR. QUINTON'S
LIST. AND THIS
TIME, WE NEED TO
ACT QUICKLY.



...BUT HE MADE
THIS DRAWING WITH
HIS OWN BLOOD ON
THE TABLE IN THE
INTERROGATION
ROOM.



IF YOU'RE RIGHT
ABOUT THERE BEING
MORE EXPLOSIVES
OUT THERE...

...I DON'T THINK
WE'RE PREPARED
FOR WHAT'S TO
COME.



I **AM**
RIGHT.

AND APPARENTLY
YOU DIDN'T NOTICE
THAT THIS CRIME
SCENE WAS
TAMPERED WITH.



OBJECTS
HAVE
CLEARLY
BEEN
REMOVED.



THERE
ARE POLICE
INVOLVED
IN THESE
CRIMES.

NO
ONE CAN BE
TRUSTED.



YOU CAN TRUST ME, BATMAN.



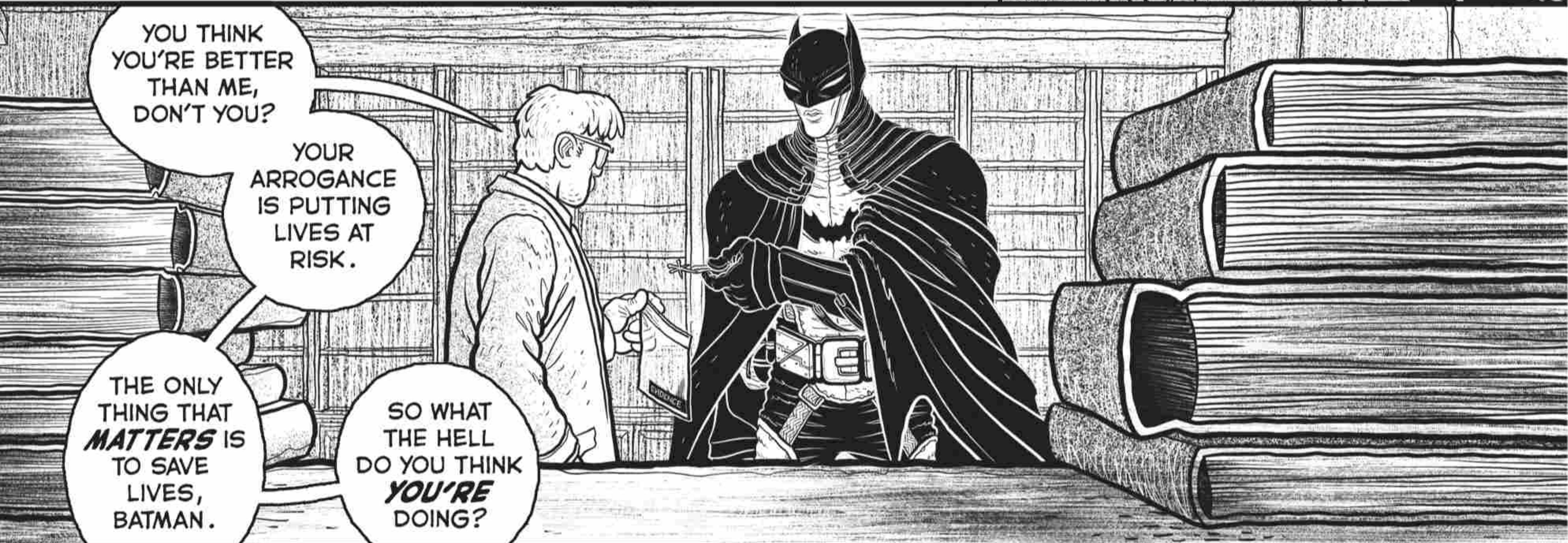
I DON'T KNOW WHY THE **HELL** I KEEP TRYING TO CONVINCE MYSELF THAT WE'RE WORKING **TOGETHER**.

I'M PUTTING MY GODDAMN **CAREER** AT RISK MEETING YOU!



I WORK ALONE, GORDON.

TAKE THIS.



YOU THINK YOU'RE BETTER THAN ME, DON'T YOU?

YOUR ARROGANCE IS PUTTING LIVES AT RISK.

THE ONLY THING THAT **MATTERS** IS TO SAVE LIVES, BATMAN.

SO WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK **YOU'RE** DOING?



I DON'T CARE WHAT ANY OF YOU THINK ABOUT ME.

GO CHECK THE OTHER ADDRESS.

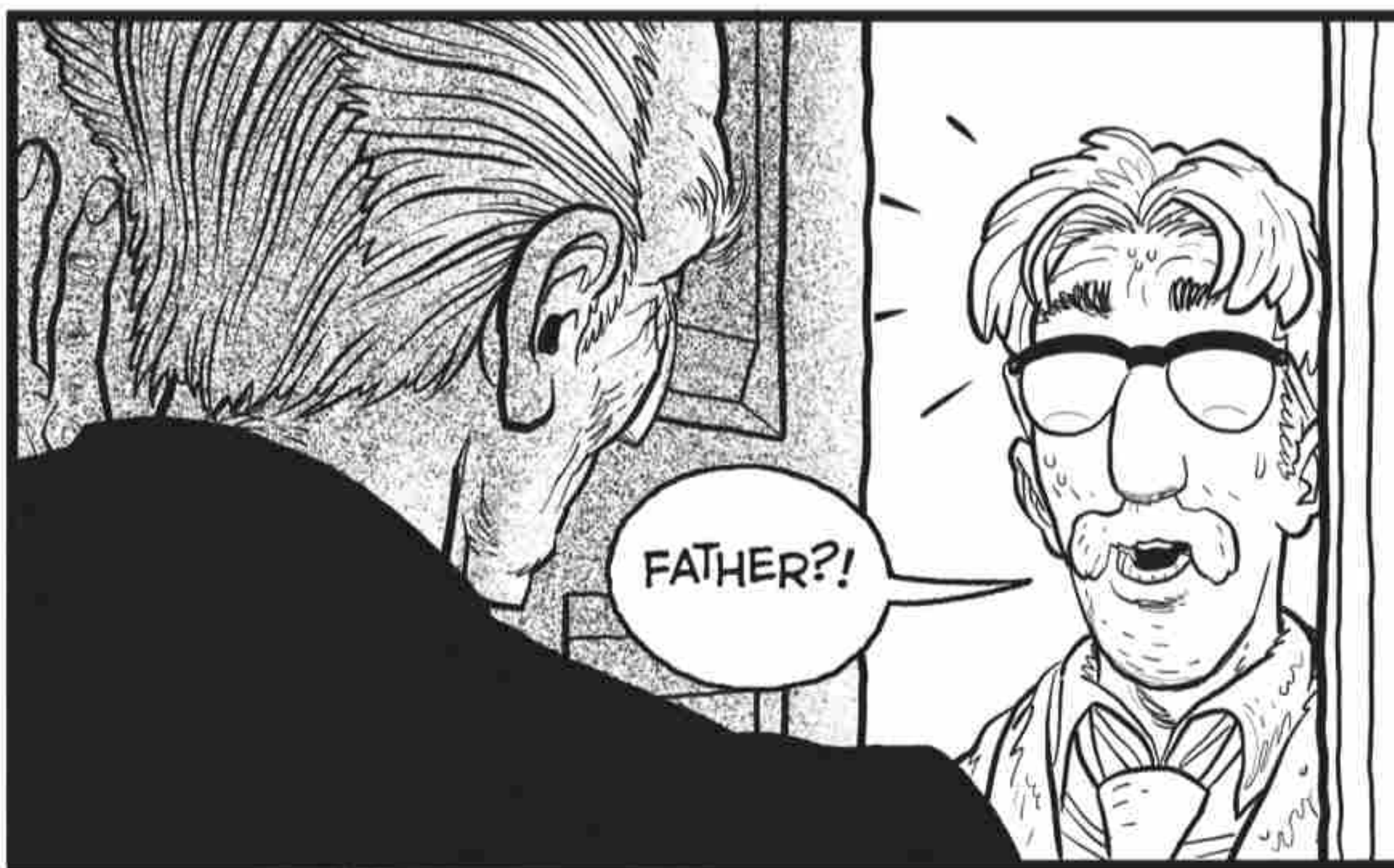
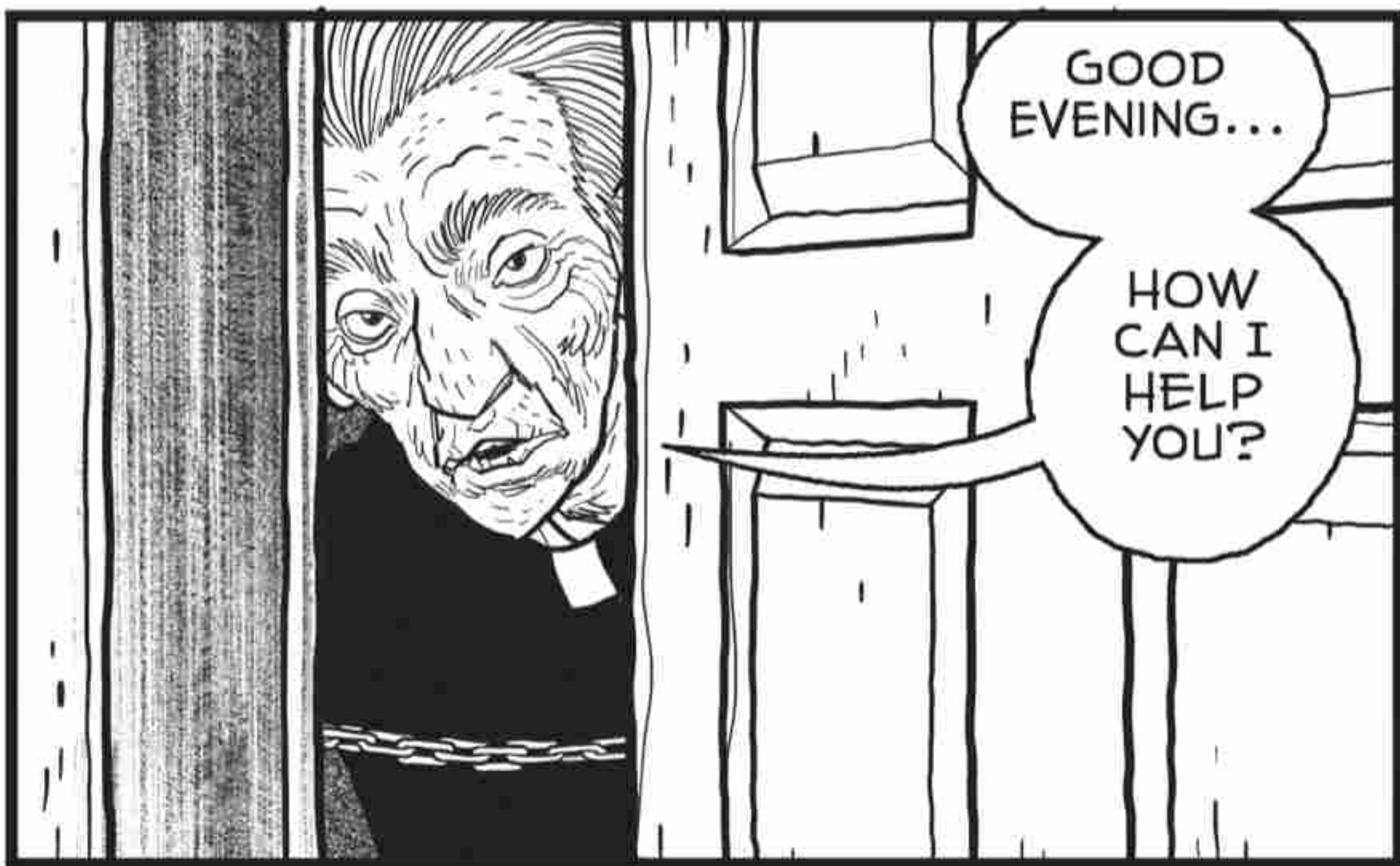
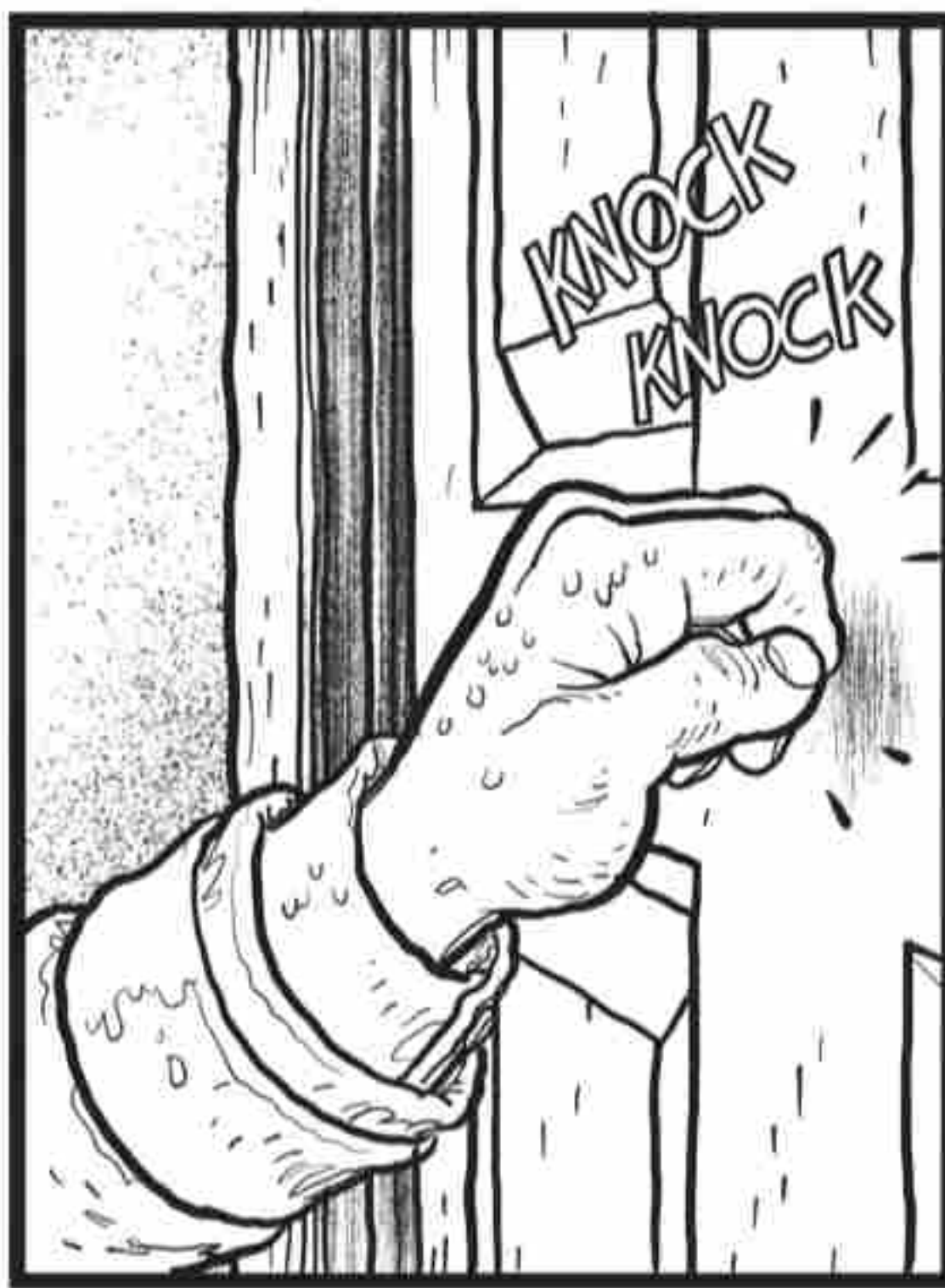
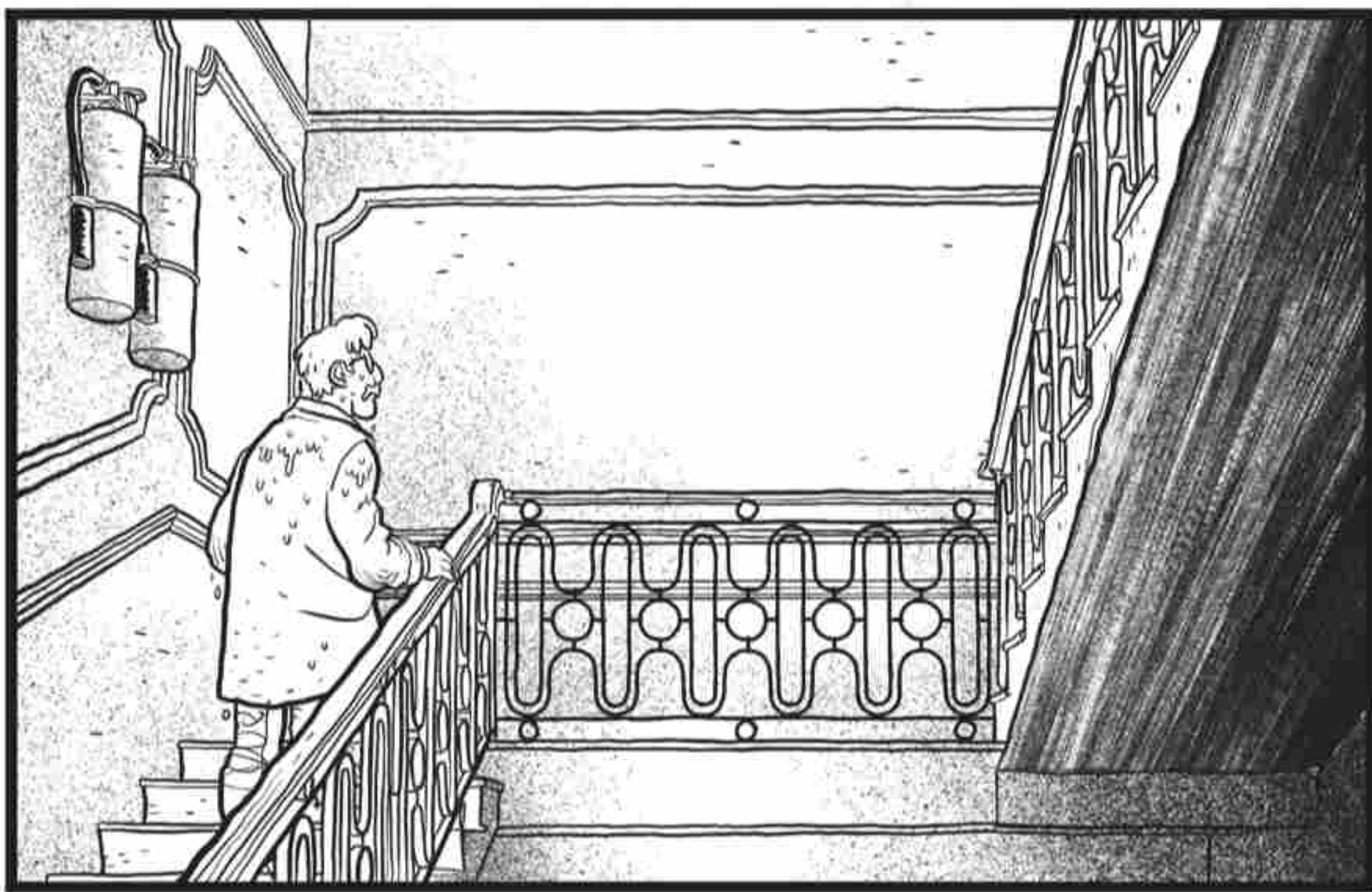
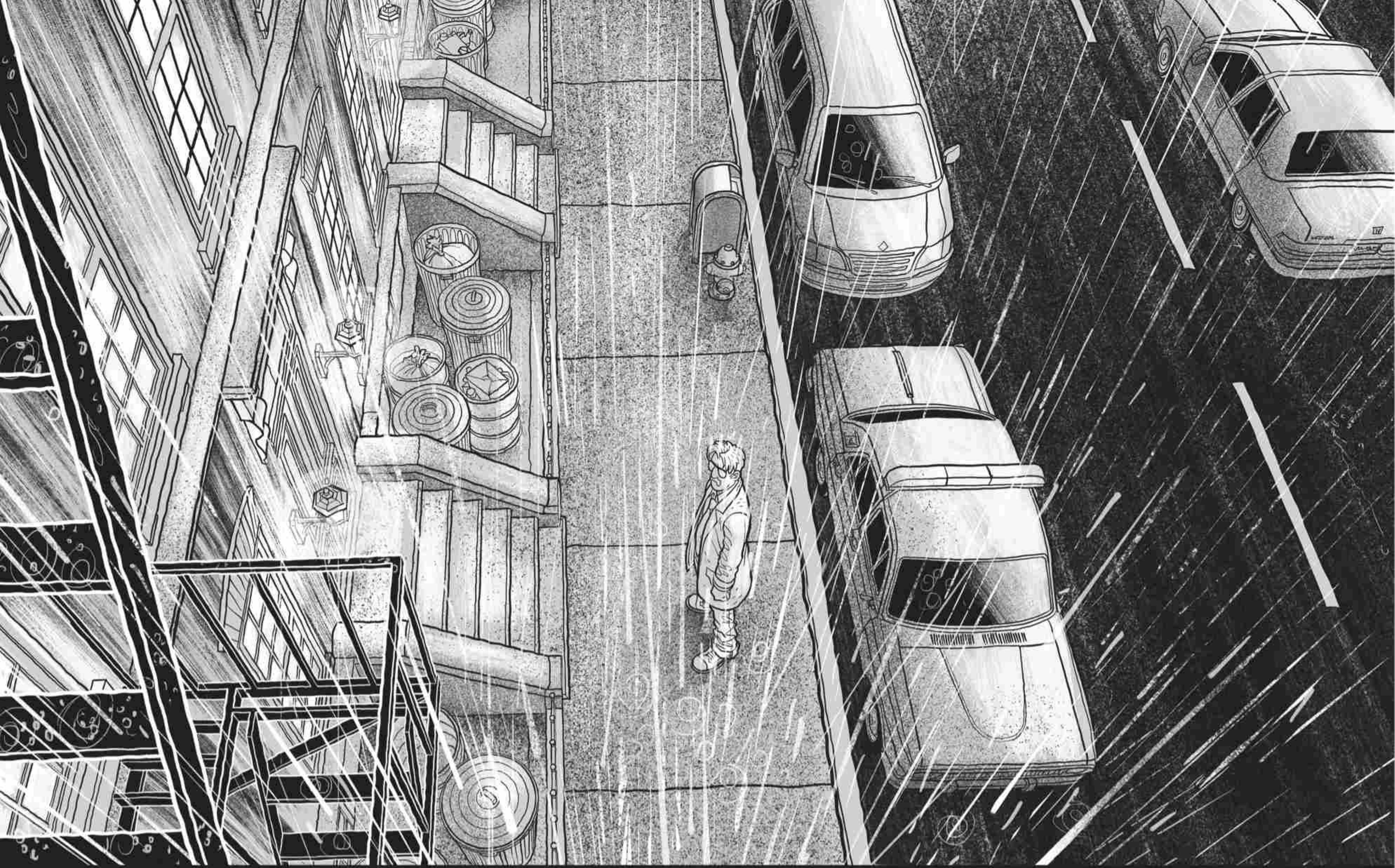


I CAN FINALLY SEE YOU...



I DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM YOU, KID.

YOU CAN **DISAPPEAR** NOW.



Bruce Wayne
is fighting like
never before
to survive
this mental
battle.

Everything I
discovered
about him
today...

...it sounds
like he's
crying for
help.

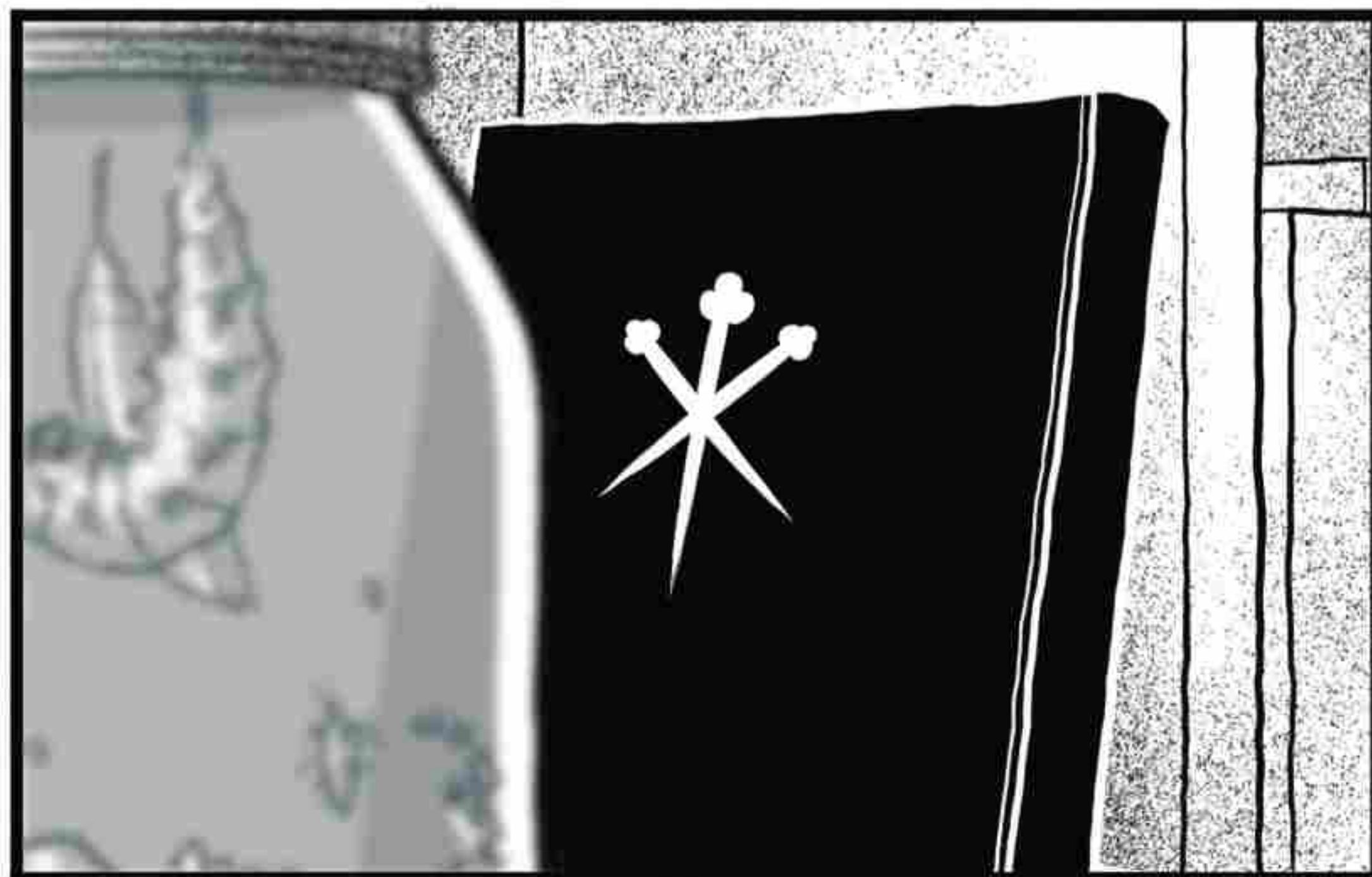
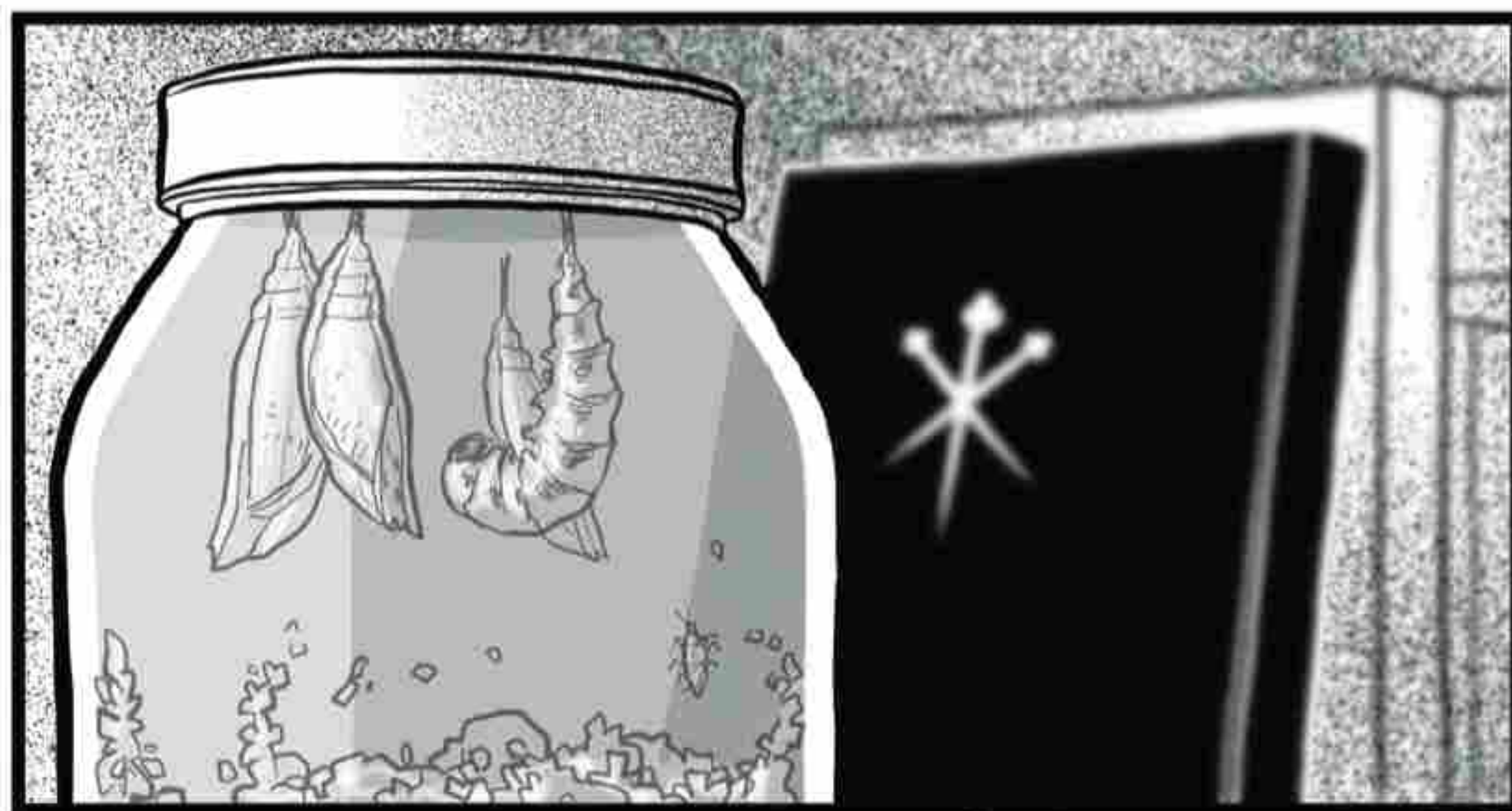
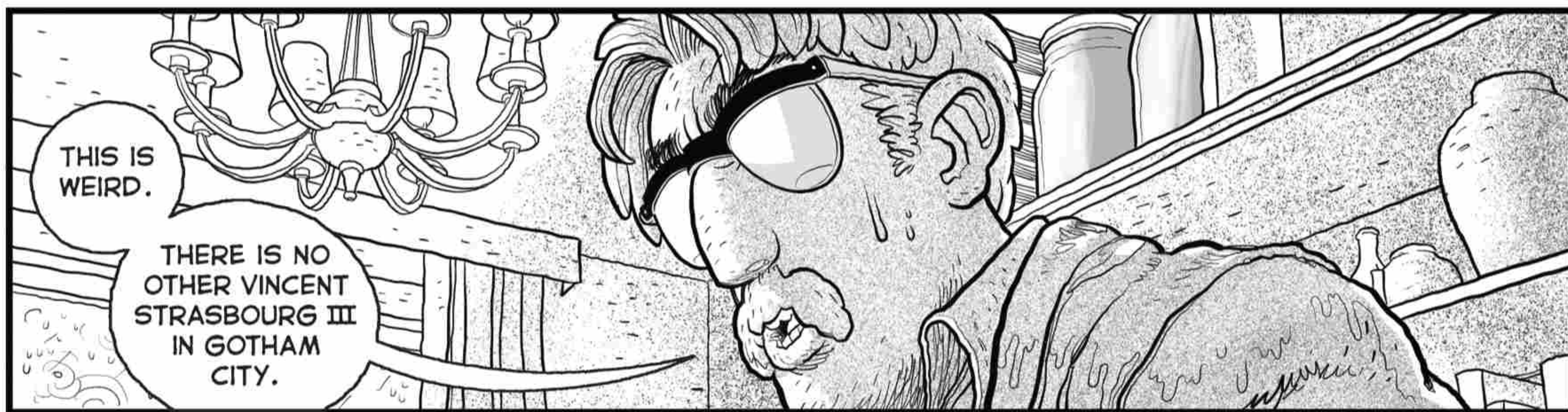
Mother,
is that you
sending me
these signs?

You're afraid
of being
forgotten...

...while your
assassin
still breathes.

He still
breathes...

N. Blomberg



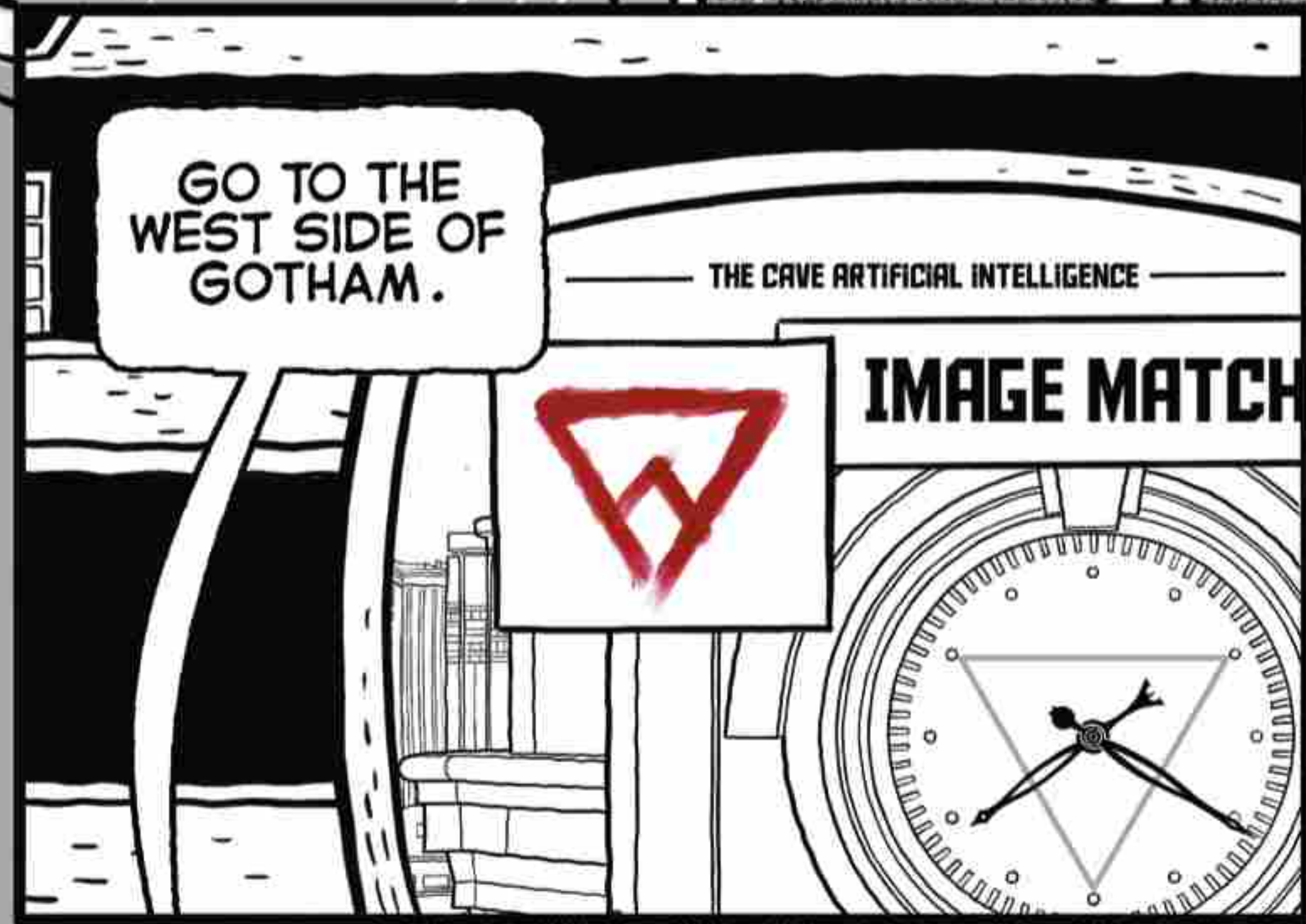


ALFRED,
WERE YOU ABLE
TO DOWNLOAD
THE IMAGES I
SENT YOU?

YES, THE
IMAGE CAPTURE
IN YOUR LENSES
IS WORKING
PERFECTLY.



AND I BELIEVE
I HAVE FOUND
INTERESTING
RESULTS, SIR.

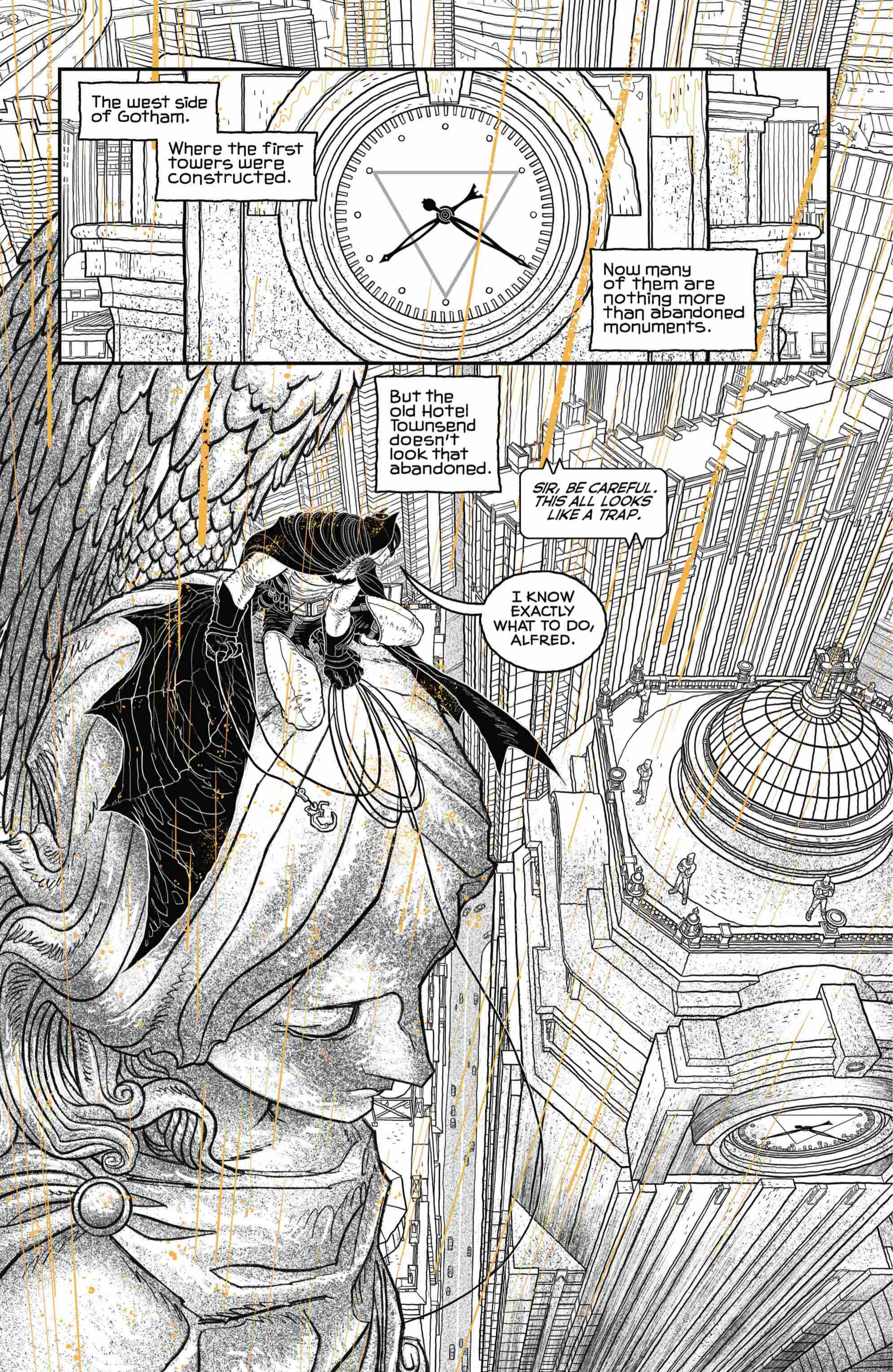


GO TO THE
WEST SIDE OF
GOTHAM.



HOTEL
TOWNSEND.

OKAY.



The west side
of Gotham.

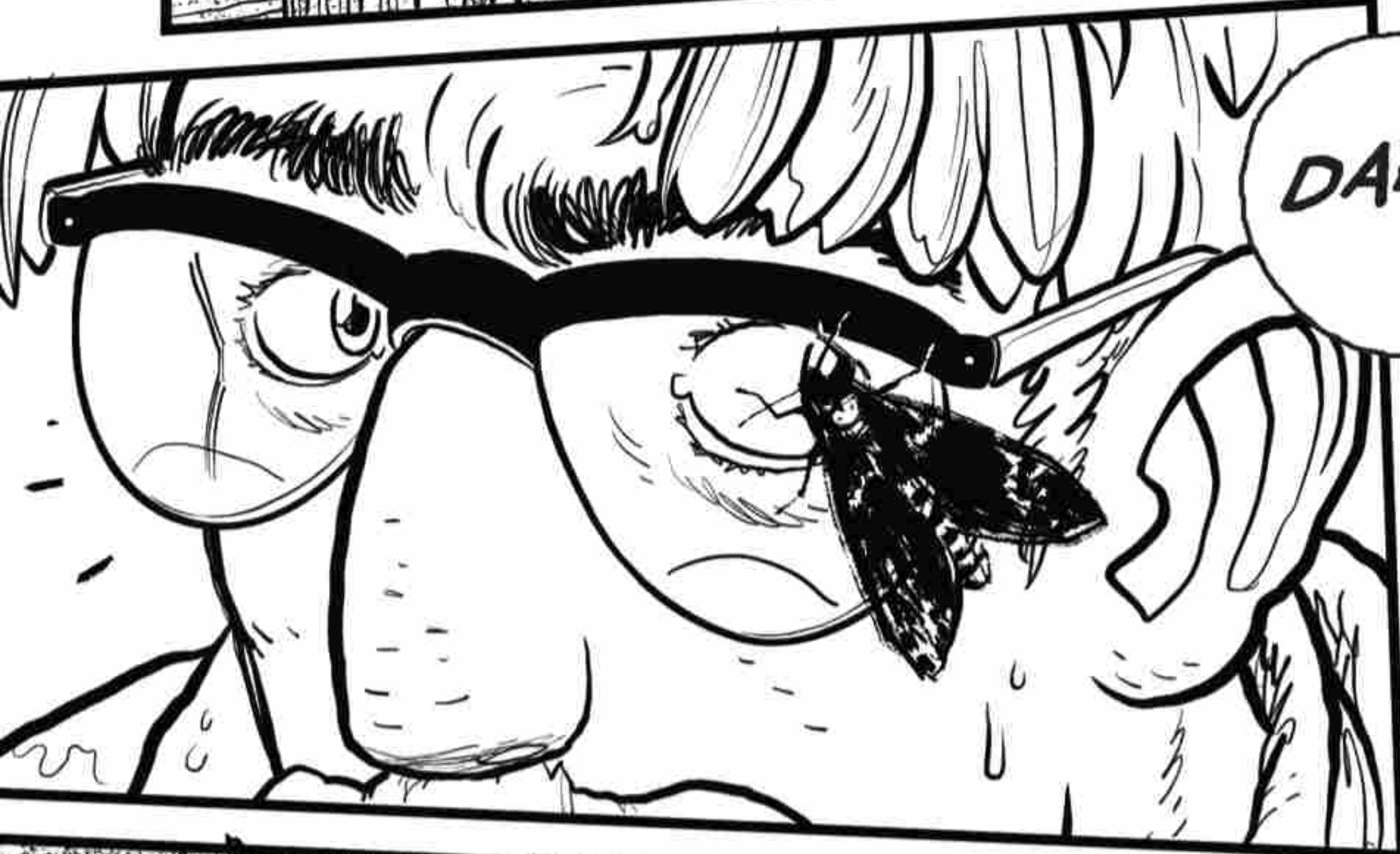
Where the first
towers were
constructed.

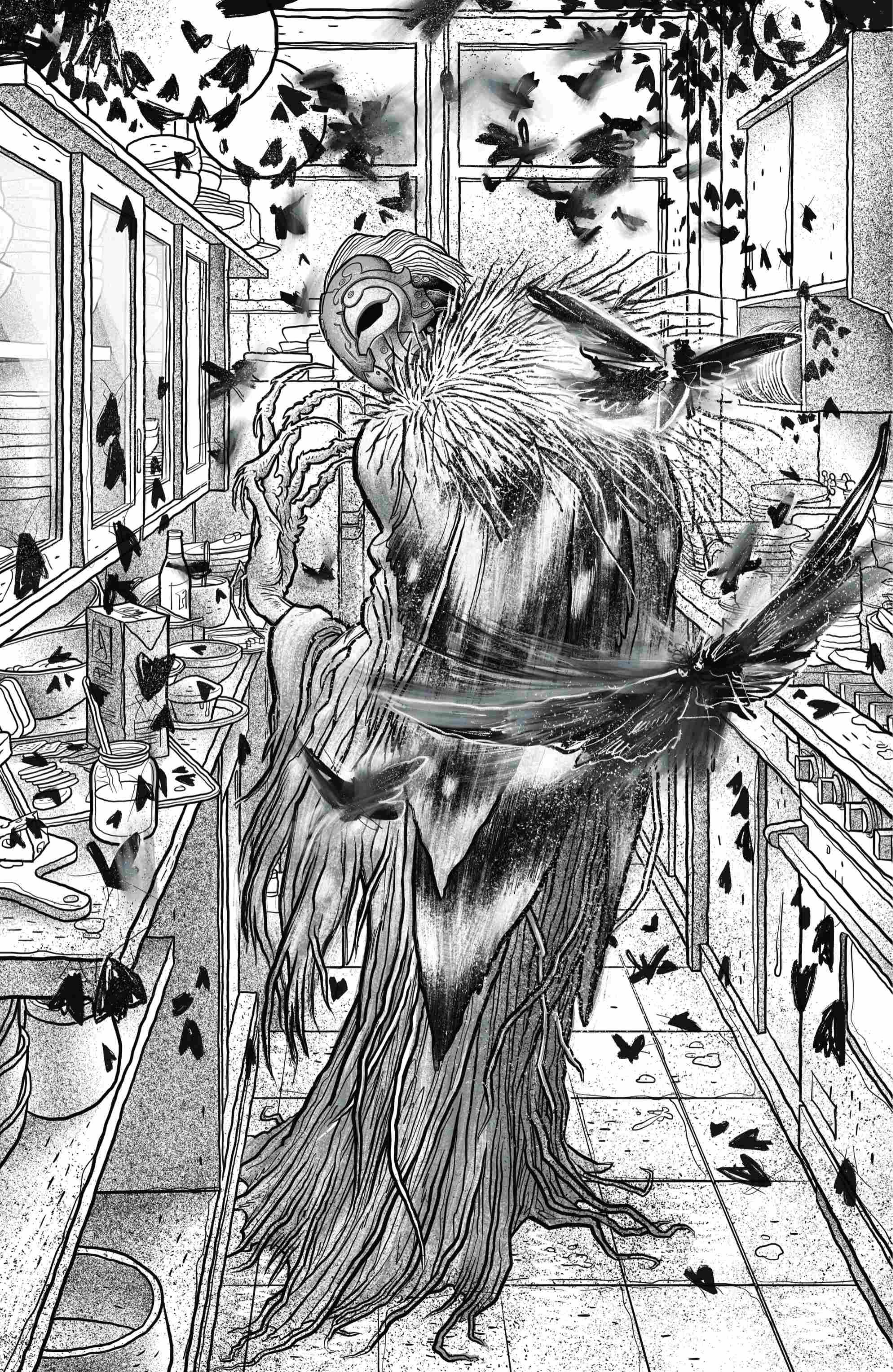
Now many
of them are
nothing more
than abandoned
monuments.

But the
old Hotel
Townsend
doesn't
look that
abandoned.

SIR, BE CAREFUL.
THIS ALL LOOKS
LIKE A TRAP.

I KNOW
EXACTLY
WHAT TO DO,
ALFRED.





ARGHH!

WAAK

CALL ME
MOTH-ER,
MY SON...

They're armed.
But I know
their type.

Depending on
how I present
myself, I'm
either a monster
or just a loser in
a bat costume.

I choose
loser.

HAHA!
DON'T SHOOT
HIM.

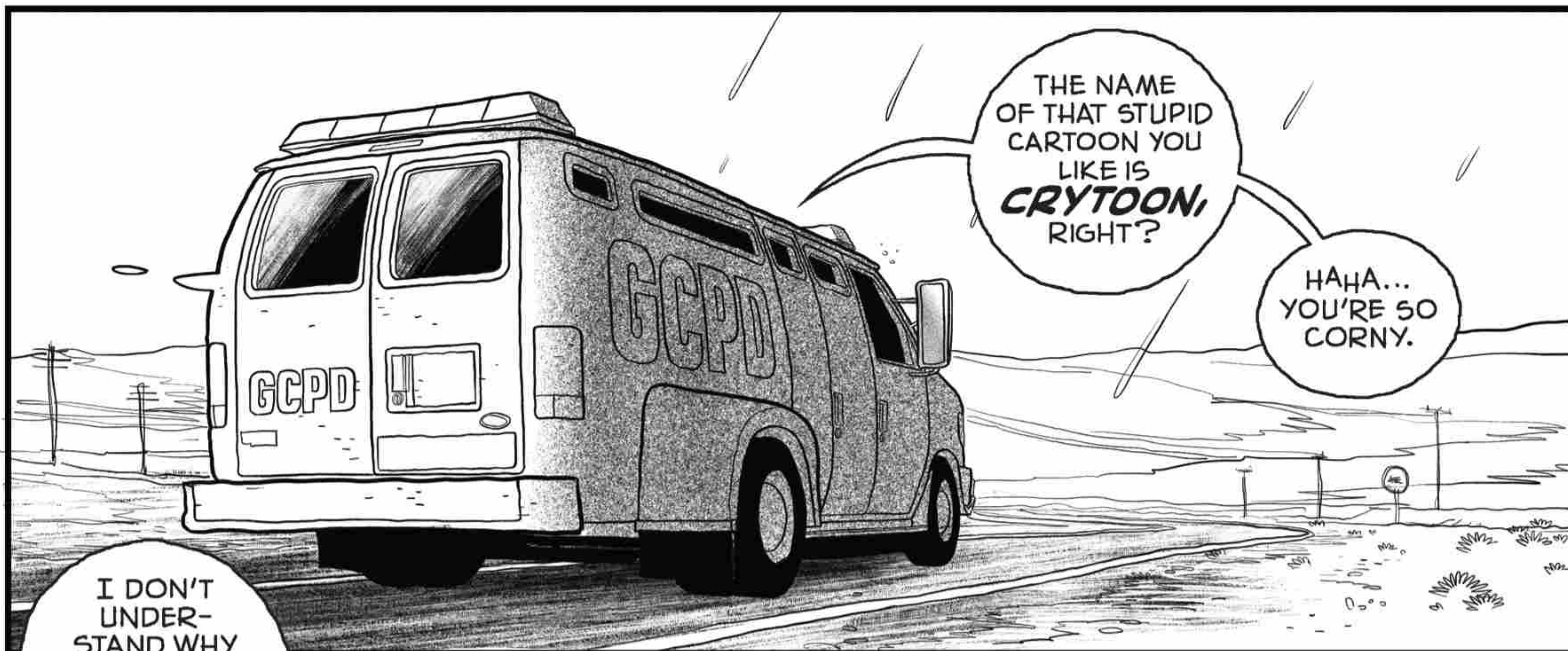
HE'S
MINE!

Instead
of striking
terror, I
encourage
them to
show off.

TAK
KRAK

They make me
bulletproof.

But Bruce
Wayne's end
might come
tonight.



THE NAME
OF THAT STUPID
CARTOON YOU
LIKE IS
CRYTOON,
RIGHT?

HAHA...
YOU'RE SO
CORN.

I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND WHY
YOU WERE SO
IMPORTANT TO
THE **STADT-
GEIST**.



BUT
YOU'RE
DONE
NOW.

YOU
KNOW
YOUR
FATE IF
YOU'RE
CAUGHT,
DON'T
YOU?



THE THREE
OF US GET TO
COMPETE FOR YOUR
VACANT SPOT,
"CRYTOON."

MORE LIKE
DEADTOON.



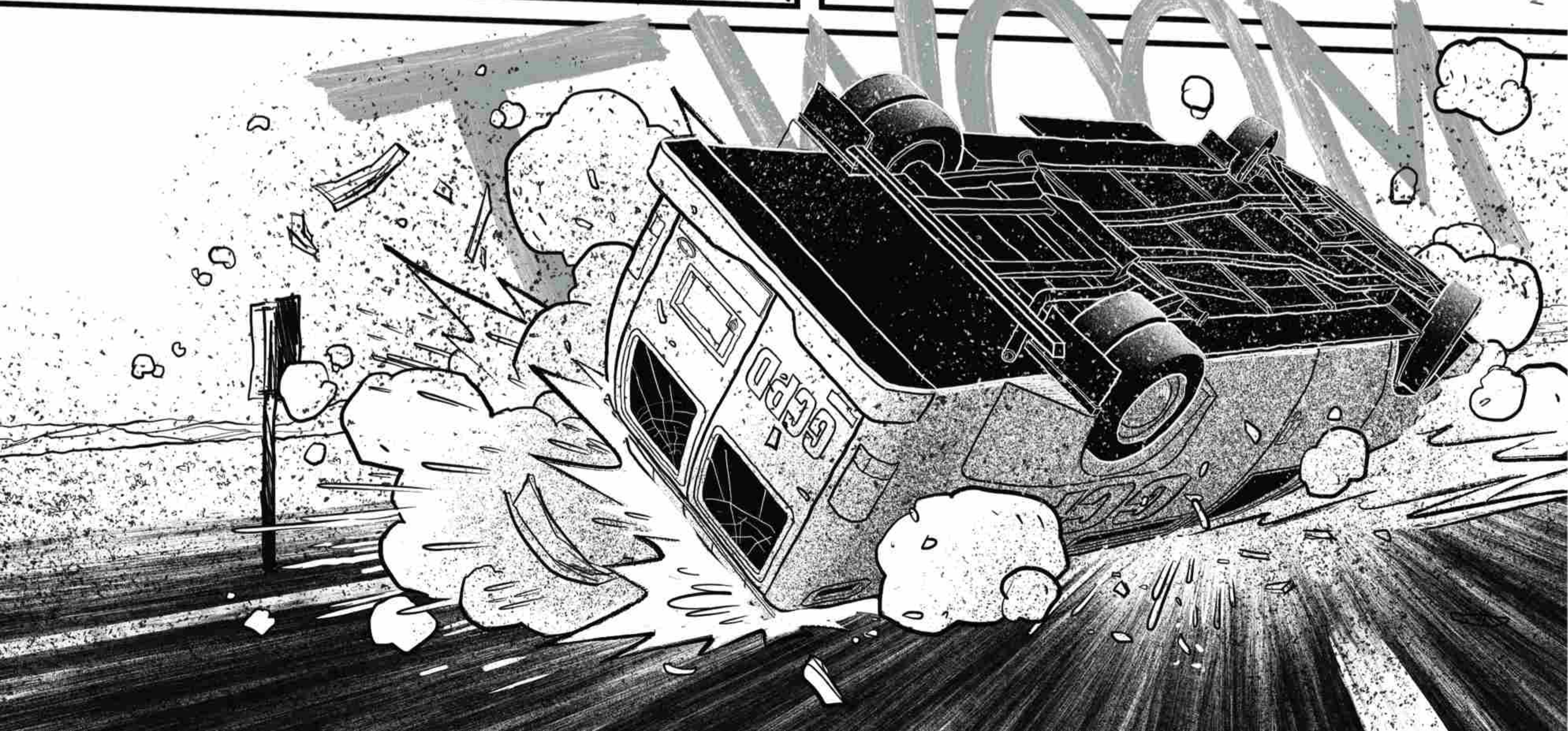
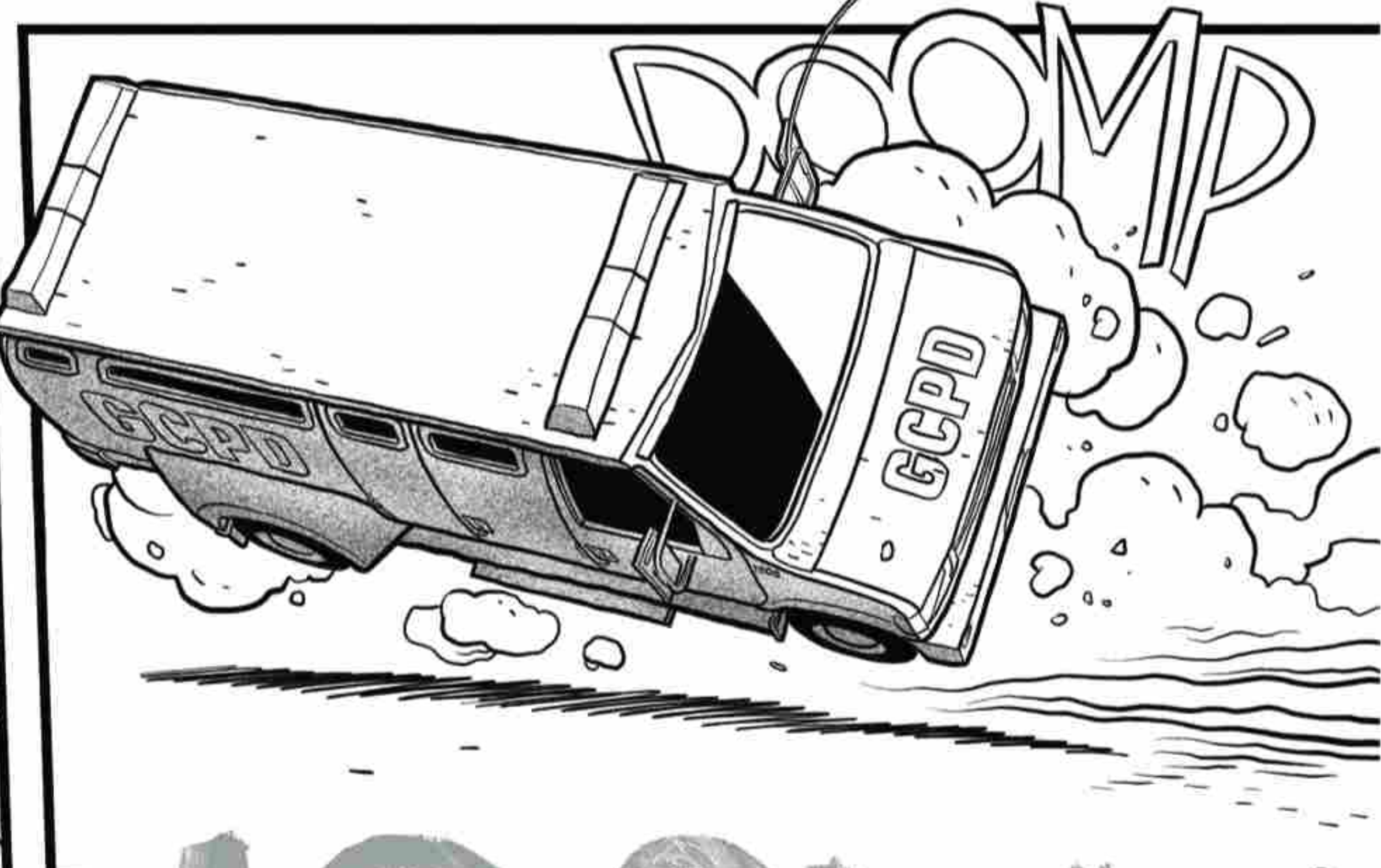
HAHAHA...

CRACK



KPLANK

GCPD





LOOK
AT YOU...

THERE
IS NO YOUTH
IN YOU.

YOUR
AURA
IS DRY.

ACK

NO
REASON
TO KEEP
YOU
ALI--



I CAN
SEE *YOUR*
AURA...

FWSH

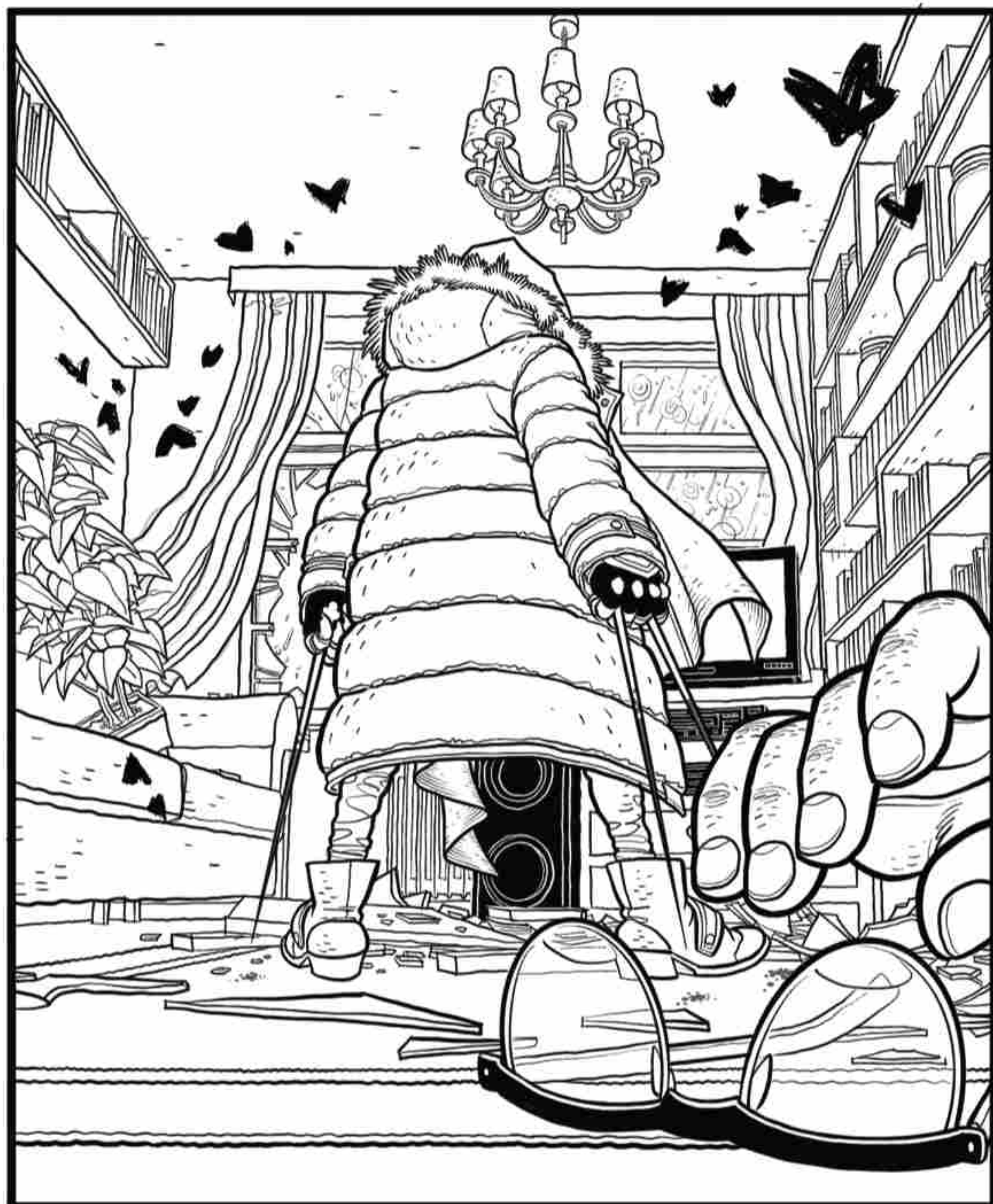
FWSH

...AND
YOU'RE
DYING!

OH, MY
DEAR...

YOU'VE
ALWAYS
BEEN...MY
FAVORITE...

BUT
YOU'RE NOT
CAPABLE OF
STOPPING THE
BELLS.







FINALLY.



I FELT YOU COMING...



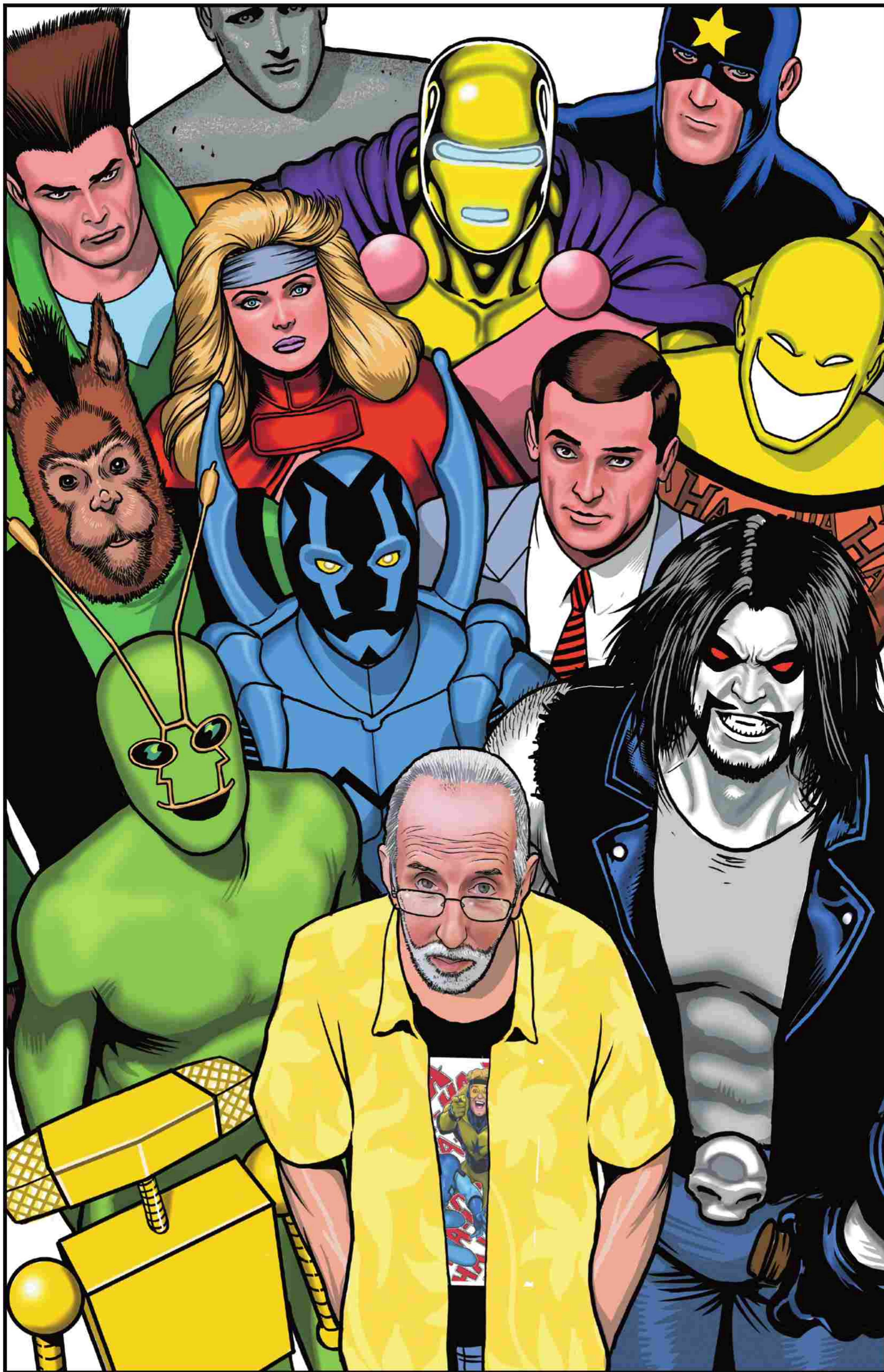
"A DEMON CUB FALLS TO EARTH AND BREAKS ITS WINGS..."

"...IT BECOMES THE DEVIL AND KILLS THE MAN."



WELCOME
HOME, CHILD.

TO BE
CONTINUED



KEITH GIFFEN

1 9 5 2 - 2 0 2 3

KEITH GIFFEN WAS ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANTLY CREATIVE HUMANS EVER TO WORK IN COMICS, THE JACK KIRBY OF MY GENERATION OF CREATORS. HE WAS A CURMUDGEON WITH A HEART OF GOLD. AN OLD, DEAR FRIEND. AND, AS MY WIFE OBSERVED, "HE WAS LIKE A CHARACTER OUT OF A KEITH GIFFEN STORY." SAFE TRAVELS, KEITH. YOU WILL BE MISSED.

—J.M. DeMATTEIS

KEITH WAS A CREATIVE FORCE OF NATURE, GIFTED WITH THE ABILITY TO BOLDLY AND ENDLESSLY PULL HIS CREATIONS FROM A BLANK PAGE AS WE WATCHED IN AMAZEMENT. HE EFFORTLESSLY CONJURED STORIES FROM SOME MYSTICAL PLACE, WITH RAZOR-SHARP WIT THAT WOULD HAVE YOU SMILING ONE MOMENT AND SOCK YOU IN THE GUT THE NEXT. KEITH, WE HOLD YOU IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER.

—HOWARD PORTER

KEITH GIFFEN'S BRILLIANCE AS BOTH WRITER AND ARTIST IS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE INCREDIBLE BREADTH OF HIS WORK OVER MORE THAN 45 YEARS. THAT CREATIVE ENERGY, ALONG WITH HIS ABILITY TO MOVE THROUGH A CASCADE OF IDEAS THAT DIDN'T WORK UNTIL HE FOUND ONE THAT DID, WAS PRIZED BY EVERYONE WHO COLLABORATED WITH HIM.

—DAN JURGENS

I ASKED KEITH ONCE, "WHAT'S THE SECRET TO YOUR CAREER LONGEVITY?" HE SAID, "FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU DO BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE AND OWN THAT LANE. WHEN PUBLISHERS WANT IT, THEY'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO COME TO YOU." THE THING IS, KEITH DIDN'T OWN A LANE. HE OWNED THE WHOLE HIGHWAY. I MISS YOU, MY FRIEND.

—MARK WAID

KEITH HAD THE MOST FERTILE AND IMAGINATIVE MIND IN COMICS IN MY GENERATION. IT WAS A DELIGHT TO BUILD OUT THE FUTURE OF THE DC UNIVERSE WITH HIM.

—PAUL LEVITZ

I OWE MUCH OF WHAT I HAVE TODAY TO KEITH. WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS EVER SINCE I WAS THAT HIGH SCHOOL GIRL DRAWING LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES ART IN FANZINES. HE CALLED ME THE "LITTLE SISTER I NEVER WANTED." BUT IF I HAD WANTED ANOTHER BROTHER, KEITH WOULD HAVE BEEN EVERYTHING I WOULD HAVE ASKED FOR.

—COLLEEN DORAN

HAVING A HARD TIME FINDING THE RIGHT WORDS. ALL I KNOW IS THAT KEITH WOULD BE ANNOYED BY THIS WHOLE THING, BUT IF ANYONE TRULY DESERVED PRAISE AND APPRECIATION FROM THE COMICS INDUSTRY, IT WOULD BE KEITH. I GUESS IT'S A GOOD THING HE'S NOT HERE TO SEE IT.

—DAN DiDIO

KEITH WAS A MASTER STORYTELLER, FULL OF GOOD IDEAS, AND WHEN HE KNEW HE WAS RIGHT HE WOULD FIGHT THE BATTLE UNTIL THE END. THERE ARE NO MORE BATTLES TO FIGHT, MY FRIEND.

—BRIAN MILLER

ANDY HELFER ONCE TOLD ME, "IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE FIRST IDEA KEITH GIVES YOU, WAIT A MINUTE, AND HE'LL PITCH YOU ANOTHER ONE. AND IF YOU DON'T LIKE THAT ONE, WAIT A MINUTE, AND HE'LL HAVE ANOTHER ONE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THE FIRST IDEA OFF THE TOP OF THE DECK FROM KEITH." KEITH WAS BRIGHT AND RESOURCEFUL ENOUGH THAT I ALWAYS TOOK THE FIRST IDEA OFF THE TOP OF THE DECK.

—JOEY CAVALIERI

KEITH WAS THE YOUNGEST GRUMPY OLD MAN I EVER MET—AND THAT WAS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY I LOVED HIM. THE HOURS, DAYS, MONTHS, AND YEARS WE SPENT WORKING AND PLAYING TOGETHER WERE SOME OF THE BEST IN MY TIME AT DC. WITH THE FACILITY OF A KURTZMAN, KEITH COULD PENCIL-SKETCH A FULL ISSUE OF *JLA* IN AN HOUR. AS PART OF THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE* CREW, HE WAS THE FULCRUM THAT BALANCED THE REST OF US, AND HE WILL BE MISSED.

—ANDY HELFER

I'M ALSO WORKING ON THE THIRD *[JLI]* OMNIBUS COVER, AND NOW, LOOKING AT ALL THESE KEITH GIFFEN CHARACTERS LOOKING AT ME, IT FEELS UNSURPRISINGLY MELANCHOLY. A WISE-ASS UNTIL THE END. MAY THE WINGS OF ANGELS FLY YOU ON YOUR NEW ADVENTURE, YOU MAGNIFICENT BASTARD!

—KEVIN MAGUIRE

KEITH POSSESSED AN INCREDIBLE ABUNDANCE OF TALENT, HAD A FEARLESS TAKE ON EVERY PROJECT ASKED OF HIM, AND CREATED SOME OF THE MOST ABSURD, OVER-THE-TOP, AND HILARIOUS CHARACTERS EVER. TRULY A MASTER OF EVERY FACET OF THE CRAFT OF MAKING COMICS AND A CREATIVE DYNAMO LIKE NO OTHER.

—JIM LEE

WHEN I WAS A KID, KEITH GIFFEN WAS MY FAVORITE COMIC BOOK CREATOR. IT WAS HIS WORK ON *LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES* AND *JUSTICE LEAGUE* THAT FIRST CAUGHT MY ATTENTION, AND THEN IT WAS HIS EVER-EVOLVING ART STYLE THAT SHOWED A KID LIKE ME THAT YOU COULD HAVE A WEIRD DRAWING STYLE AND STILL MAKE GOOD COMICS. KEITH'S CURMUDGEONLY STYLE HID A HEART OF GOLD AND AN ENDLESSLY RESTLESS CREATIVE SPIRIT. HE WILL BE MISSED. BY ME AND SO MANY FANS AND READERS.
REST IN PEACE, KEITH, AND THANK YOU.

—JEFF LEMIRE



BREAKING HEARTS AND FACES MONTHLY!

BIRDS OF PREY

“The team is perfect, both
the creative team and the
characters they assemble.”
—The Beat

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THOMPSON**

ART BY
**LEONARDO
ROMERO**

BATMAN



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“This is how a
killer’s heart beats.”

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SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...
THIS MONSTER!"

